Doctor of Ministry Degree Program: Military Chaplaincy Concentration

Program Overview

Purpose

The Military Chaplaincy concentration is designed to form and equip clergy in military settings to serve more effectively and competently. It guides students in critical reflection on the theology, theory, and practice of ministering to and leading the people of God who serve in the Armed Forces. The Military Chaplaincy concentration seeks to transform chaplains and pastors (and ultimately the military personnel they minister to) in their commitment and ability to carry out their vocation in service to God and state.

Objectives

1. To understand and articulate a coherent perspective of ministry, especially in the military context, that is informed by the Scriptures and the Lutheran Confessions.
2. To exercise pastoral care and ministerial leadership, especially among military personnel, in a theologically competent and confident manner.
3. To apprehend and exercise ethics befitting of a religious leader, especially in a military context, and to instill those ethics in others.
4. To be able to communicate the Gospel meaningfully in the pluralistic and multicultural settings, especially in the U.S. military culture.
5. To be able to discern problems and challenges of military chaplaincy in one's distinctive context of ministry, to pursue research, and to formulate appropriate and effective solutions and strategies.

Curriculum Requirements

Total credit hours: 45, consisting of the following:

0 hrs – Orientation:
   • DM-000 Orientation to the Doctor of Ministry

18 hrs Free Electives (for those not receiving JPME or Wrap-around credit)
   OR Chaplains Retreat Wrap-around Credit
      Supplemental reading, writing, and reflection up to 6 retreats (3 hrs each) OR Professional Military Education (JPME Phase 1) transfer credit:
      • Strategy and Policy (9 hrs)
      • National Security Defense Making (9 hrs)

6 hrs – Two Courses (3 hrs each) within the disciplines of Exegetical, Historical, and Systematic Theology.

12 hrs Classes approved for the Military Chaplaincy Concentration:
   Required:
      • DM-968 Ministry in the Military Context (6 hrs)
   Electives in the concentration (6 hrs)

6 hrs Free electives
3 hrs D.Min. Research Project
  • DM-995 Project Research and Writing (3 hrs)
  • DM-996 Major Applied Project

Distinctive Concentration Requirements

  • DM-968 Ministry in the Military Context (6 hrs)
    This seminar will study and reflect upon distinctive issues and challenges of ministering in a military context. Special attention will be given to the ethical implications confronting military personnel as well as ministers serving them. The seminar will investigate how chaplains and pastors can best communicate, provide pastoral counseling and care, guide worship, and lead in a military context and culture.

Classes Approved for the Concentration

Other offerings that qualify for the Military Chaplaincy concentration are in the subjects of: organizational design and development, ethics, leadership, educational and spiritual formation, pastoral care, psychodynamics of marriage and the family, ministry in a secular and pluralistic society, evangelism in contemporary culture, liturgics, change and conflict management, and communication.

Classes offered that qualify for the Military Chaplaincy concentration are:

  • DM-900 Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care
  • DM-907 Leadership in the Congregation
  • DM-917 Team Ministry
  • DM-920 Corporate Worship
  • DM-922 Worship and Culture
  • DM-923 Preaching and Worship
  • DM-928 Communication Skills for Pastors
  • DM-934 Preaching Isaiah
  • DM-943 Conflict and Reconciliation
  • DM-944 Multiplying Missional Leaders
  • DM-945 The Gospel in Cross-Cultural Contexts
  • DM-947 Leadership and the Missio Dei
  • DM-946 Christian Witness to World Religions
  • DM-948 Advanced Strategic Planning for Mission
  • DM-950 The Church in Mission through Small Groups and Lifestyle Evangelism
  • DM-954 Strategies for Evangelism
  • DM-960 Theory and Practice of Pastoral Counseling
  • DM-961 Family Therapy
  • DM-962 Family Life Ministry
  • DM-965 Techniques and Strategies for Teaching Adults
  • DM-975 Foundations of Education in the Christian Context
  • DM-976 Christian Education and the Adult Life Cycle
  • DM-977 Pastoral Care: Personal and Organizational Dynamics
  • DM-985 Defending the Faith: Christian Apologetics
  • DM-986 The Lutheran Church in a Pluralistic Society
  • DM-988 The Path of Faith: Purpose and Functions of the Catechism
  • DM-992 The Ecumenical Setting of Today's Ministry
Instructors

Those who teach and lead the D.Min. classes include members of Concordia Seminary's resident faculty. These are supplemented by a choice selection of guest instructors including active and retired military chaplains, synodical leaders, and parish pastors who have demonstrated expertise in their fields. All teachers are dedicated to the application of confessional Lutheran theology to the contemporary concerns of parish and chaplaincy ministry.

Financial Information

Note: Information provided here applies to current (2014-2015) tuition, fee, and housing rates. These rates may and probably will increase in the future.

The Cost of Tuition

45 credit hours are required to complete the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree. The current tuition rate is $675 per credit hour. No credit is awarded for the Major Applied Project, but a MAP fee of $2025 is assessed to cover one year of work.

Financial aid covers 50 percent of tuition (not fees) and is applied automatically to all students admitted into the D.Min. program.

Formula for calculating tuition paid to complete the course work toward the D.Min. degree:

Traditional Arrangement:

45 hours X $675/hr. ($30,375 less 50% financial aid) = $15,187.50

JPME Arrangement:

27 hours X $337.5/hr. (+ 18 transfer hours of JPME) = $9,112.50

Additional Seminary Fees

Payment of the following fees is required:

- Application Fee $50
- Orientation Course Fee $365
- Technology Fees $140
- Major Applied Project Fee $2025
- Total $2580

Room and Board

Students living near St. Louis may commute and thereby eliminate the cost of room and board. Students living at a distance may configure their program so that they lodge on the STL campus from three to five one-week (five day) stays.

The cost of a dormitory room (double occupancy) for one week (5 nights) is $150. Lunch and/or dinner are available in the seminary cafeteria for $7.50/meal.
**Books**
Expenses for books can vary widely, depending upon a student’s preference for new books, e-books, used books, or available library books. It is estimated that the total cost of books will range from $750 to $1,500. This would be reduced by approximately 1/3 for those who receive the JPME transfer credit.

**Travel**
Expenses depend upon the distance one must travel to and from St. Louis.

**Other Source of Financial Support**
The U.S. Military’s Chaplain Corps offers funded graduate education to chaplains, even to those in junior ranks. This enables a military chaplain to use his military branch’s Tuition Assistance (T.A.) program, GI Bill, and other military benefits to help fund his pursuit of the D.Min. degree. Contact your branch’s Chief of Chaplains Office for information.

Chaplains who are endorsed by the Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS) may be eligible for a grant from the LCMS Ministry to Armed Services Office. Contact Capt Craig Muehler at craig.muehler@lcms.org or 314-996-1346 for information.

**Prerequisites and Admission**
For admission to the program, the applicant will have a fully accredited M.Div. degree equivalent to the one offered by Concordia Seminary (with a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale). The applicant shall have three years of experience in the parish or related ministry following completion of the M.Div. degree. He is to exhibit a professional competence that is above average, as attested by evaluations from his peers.

The following items are to be submitted to the director of the D.Min. program before the application can be acted upon:

- Completed application form
- Four reference forms (one each from a fellow pastor or chaplain, a military supervisor, a denominational supervisor, and another reference of his choosing)
- Five-page statement covering the applicant’s professional experience and personal goals in the D.Min. program
- Statement from his congregation or agency approving his enrollment in the D.Min. program.
- Official transcripts from each seminary previously attended
- $50 application fee