

Doctor of Ministry Course Descriptions

Church Ministry Specialization (45 Hours)

BUSI 801 - Pastoral Perspectives on Business

This course gives further instruction regarding the specific business issues that will be faced in pastoral ministry. These include accountability, benevolence/outreach, board meetings, budgeting, business meetings, facilities, fundraising, human resource issues, salaries, and tithes and offerings.

CMIN 801 - Advanced Church Ministries

This course reviews the relationships between pastors and various church ministries. The main areas of ministry being addressed are: Children, youth, worship/music, singles, Christian education, small groups, missions, senior adults, prayer, and outreach.

CMIN 802 - Critical Issues for Pastors in Ministry

This course addresses some of the major social issues facing ministry today including religion, racism, sexual identity, politics, relativism, death penalty, stem cell research, abortion, assisted suicide, and immigration.

CMIN 803 - Personal and Spiritual Wellness

This course equips pastors to achieve and maintain balance in their social, physical, emotional, personal, environmental, intellectual, vocational, spiritual, financial, and relational lives.

COMM 701 - Preaching to 21st Century Audiences

This course prepares pastors to be better presenters of the Word of God in any setting. The topics to be addressed include defining biblical preaching, rules for effective communication, how to choose a topic, how to study, structuring the message, storytelling, using visual illustrations, connecting the listeners to the message, coming to a conclusion, and inviting responses.

COMM 702 - World Religions and Cults

This course will study the beliefs of the major non-Christian religions of the world including Hinduism, Buddhism, Confucianism, Taoism, and Islam. Emphasis is placed on each tradition's analysis of the basic human problem and the solution that it offers to the problem. Attention is also paid to new, emergent religious movements and cults.

COUN 801 - Pastoral Perspectives on Counseling

This course addresses specific challenges pastors face in counseling. These include when to commit to counseling, length of time for counseling, type of counseling being offered, different issues faced in counseling, when to refer to a professional counselor, using the Bible in counseling, offering hope, personal responsibility, giving advice and homework, and how to properly close a counseling session or season.

LEAD 801 - Pastoral Leadership

This course offers pastors a deeper understanding of what church leadership is and how it should be lived out in a ministry setting. The content of this course includes defining pastoral leadership, Jesus' example of leadership, discipleship/mentoring, vision-casting, goal setting, team building, strategic planning, leading change, learning from mistakes, and servanthood (leading by example).

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LEAD 802 - Theological Foundations of Leadership

This course will comprehensively explore leadership principles rooted in theological insights. Students will analyze the intersections of faith, ethics, and effective leadership practices through in-depth study and assignments, offering a unique opportunity to develop a strong foundation in leadership that is deeply informed by theological perspectives.

LEAD 803 - Church Leadership Theory and Practice

This course offers a comprehensive exploration of effective leadership within a religious context. Through insightful assignments and in-depth analysis, students will explore various theories and strategies for guiding and nurturing congregations.

LEAD 804 - Leading Through Conflict and Crisis

This course explores effective strategies for navigating and leading during conflict and crisis within a ministry context, including the dynamics of conflict resolution, crisis management, and developing strong leadership skills.

LEAD 805 - Contextual Leadership in Ministry

This course explores the intersection of leadership principles and their practical application within the context of churches and communities, including strategies for effective engagement, collaboration, and transformational leadership, emphasizing the role of faith-based organizations in addressing social challenges.

LEAD 806 - Reflective Practice and Discernment in Leadership

This course will explore the art of thoughtful self-examination and decision-making within leadership roles. Through insightful discussions and exploration of real-world scenarios, students will develop the skills to critically assess their leadership practices and make informed choices that align with their personal values and organizational goals. This course will equip leaders with the tools needed to cultivate a reflective mindset and implement effective strategies for discernment in their leadership journey.

READ 701 - Readings in Contemporary Christianity

This course studies three textbooks to examine differing viewpoints of various theological and practical issues. The student will be required to read the texts and to write a five-page paper on each that discusses key points of the book and how it applies to life and ministry situations.

RESEARCH 801 - Doctoral Research Project - (9 hours)

The research project incorporates everything learned throughout the DMin program. The student must plan a major event/outreach and clearly incorporate five principles from each class. Furthermore, the student must explain why they did what they did and whether or not it was effective. Finally, the student will be required to video record the event (raw data, not over-produced) so that the WCBCS Doctoral Consortium can watch the event to get an overall sense of the event and its effectiveness.