

Doctor of Ministry Program Introduction



**SOUTHEASTERN
BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY**

www.sebts.edu/dmin



Welcome to the Doctor of Ministry Program at Southeastern!

It is my prayer that through this course of study and interaction you will grow in your ability and knowledge to lead in ministry. I pray that you want to be challenged and stretched. You will have that opportunity as you engage with world class scholars, expert guest practitioners, experienced field mentors, and a supportive peer cohort learning community concerning real issues facing the church and the fulfillment of the Great Commission. You will develop relationships that will last a lifetime. In the end you will conduct and write about a ministry project that will not only prove beneficial in your immediate ministry context but will be useful to Kingdom work as a whole. These are important tasks at a crucial time. I am thankful God has called you to be a part of what He is doing.

I served in full time local ministry for many years myself. I have a heart for you and for what this time of training can mean to you and the church. I am committed to carefully guiding this doctoral degree program to be a high quality academic yet practical experience.

In the following pages you will find the details of the Doctor of Ministry degree program. This handbook should be kept close at all time for reference and information. If at any time you cannot find your answers here, please do not hesitate to contact us.

I cannot wait to see how God uses this time in your life and ministry!

Dr. Larry J. Purcell
Interim Director of DMN Studies



SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

MISSION STATEMENT

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary seeks to glorify the Lord Jesus Christ by equipping students to serve the church and fulfill the Great Commission.

IDENTITY

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary is an institution of higher learning and a Cooperative Program ministry of the Southern Baptist Convention.

CONFESSION

Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary affirms the Bible as the authoritative Word of God. We covenant to teach in accordance with and not contrary to the Abstract of Principles and the Baptist Faith & Message. We further affirm the Chicago Statement on Biblical Inerrancy and the Danvers Statement on Biblical Manhood and Womanhood.

CORE COMPETENCIES

To fulfill the purpose and vision of Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary, we seek to develop the following competencies in students who graduate from this institution:

Spiritual Formation

Acquire the knowledge and skills necessary to pursue a vital Christian life and witness manifest in all personal relationships and vocational endeavors.

Biblical Exposition

Gain a basic comprehension of Scripture and learn to interpret and communicate it properly and effectively.

Theological Integration

Understand and apply the doctrines of Christianity to all areas of life and ministry.

Christian Leadership

Cultivate a godly disposition marked by wisdom, humility and grace and develop skills to lead effectively in the church and world.

Ministry Preparation

Acquire and apply knowledge and skills necessary for Christian ministry.

WELCOME TO SOUTHEASTERN BAPTIST THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

I have just learned that you are interested in attending courses at Southeastern, one of the most exciting and dynamic schools in the world. The faculty and I offer you a warm welcome as you come, and we pledge to be faithful partners with you in your theological education, the development of your gifts and responsibilities, and in the fulfillment of your calling as a minister and servant of Jesus Christ. The faculty sees your possible coming here as a sign of your commitment to excellence in ministry preparation and theological education under the leadership of the Spirit and for the glory of God.

The Doctor of Ministry degree is one of the most effective means of ministry education available to those actively serving the Church who wish to gain further training for more effective service to the body of Christ. If you desire a mentoring relationship with an experienced and trained professor, this degree is for you. If you want to avail yourself of the encouragement of a cohort of likeminded ministers, this program of study is for you. I am excited about the D.Min. Program at Southeastern. That is why I personally teach in it each year, and that is why I also supervise and mentor students myself. I believe in this program, and I am convinced that you will become a believer as well as you work your way through the excellent program of study, write a ministry project that will be relevant to your ministry assignment, and graduate better equipped to minister to God's people. I pray God's richest blessings on you as you study with us here at Southeastern.

If you can think of any way in which we can help you as you consider our seminary family, please let us know. We look forward to your arrival, to having you in our classes, and to the lifelong friendships which will emerge as we come to know and love one another. We pledge our prayerful support and encouragement as you become a significant member of this community.

Daniel L. Akin
President, Southeastern Baptist Theological Seminary

THE OBJECTIVES OF THE DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

The purpose of the Doctor of Ministry program is to equip the student for the practice of ministry at a high level of professional competence. The program provides opportunities for advanced study in intensive seminars, courses, and field settings. It combines academic study and experiential learning under faculty and field supervision to integrate theology and practice. The official program objectives are:

1. That graduate professional training will be given to Master of Divinity (or the equivalent) graduates who have shown outstanding ability and potential for ministry.
2. That students will be competent in biblical and theological reflection on ministry.
3. That students will possess knowledge of the basic principles of Christian leadership with special application to Christian ministry both in the church and the community.
4. That students will be able to establish a growth initiative within their respective ministries that is biblically sound, measurable, and effective.
5. That effective qualified supervision be given students.
6. That students will participate in an interactive peer cohort learning community where experienced ministry practitioners engage each other and world-class scholars to address critical ministry issues.
7. That this engagement will be manifested through research and practice producing practical contributions to the Church and to the fulfillment of the Great Commission.
8. That students will be equipped to complete a successful Ministry Project under the supervision of a supervisory committee.
9. That students will complete a written Project Report that analyzes and researches an issue in Church and Kingdom life and describes a ministry implemented to address the issue.
10. That students will evaluate personal, spiritual, and professional development.
11. That graduates shall have the opportunity to evaluate their program of studies.

ADMISSION TO THE PROGRAM OF STUDY

New students may seek admission to the Doctor of Ministry Program at anytime during the academic year. The on-campus seminars will normally be taught in January and in May or June. Application must be approved prior to the beginning of a seminar in order to participate in that course. Other deadlines are as stated in the Seminary Catalog found at www.sebts.edu.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Graduates of accredited colleges and universities, who have also earned the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent with distinction from an institution accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) or an affiliate of the council of regional accrediting groups, and have otherwise demonstrated aptitude for academic work on the doctoral level, may apply for admission to the program of studies leading to the Doctor of Ministry degree.

A minimum cumulative master's level grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale is required for consideration for this program. Applicants with a grade point average between 2.7 and 3.0 may be admitted on academic probation if they successfully complete all other requirements including any additional required standardized testing and assignments as determined by the Director.

In the judgment of the faculty, the Doctor of Ministry Program is most effective when the students bring to it a period of experience in ministry that follows the attainment of the first professional degree. In most cases applicants must have three years of full-time post-Master of Divinity ministry experience prior to beginning the Doctor of Ministry Program and must be continuously engaged in some type of Christian ministry during enrollment.

Admission to the Doctor of Ministry Program is determined by an evaluation of the applicant's academic ability and potential for excellence in ministry. Decisions on admission to the program are made by the Director in conjunction with the Doctor of Ministry Committee.

Academic ability is assessed on the basis of transcripts of all college, seminary, and graduate work, on the basis of performance on the Miller Analogies Test, and any other tests or assignments the Director considers appropriate.

Potential for excellence in ministry is assessed on the basis of a letter of recommendation from the applicant's church, on references from at least five specified persons acquainted with the applicant's ministry, and on a ministry goals essay involving one's Christian experience, calling, church service, and response to an actual ministry case study. In addition, assessment is based upon an interview with the Director by phone or in person.

Students who do not meet all the admission requirements may petition the Director to enter the program under probationary status. They may be required to take a standardized test and to write a satisfactory critical book review. They must also obtain a 3.0 on all doctoral work for one year or they will not be allowed to continue in the program. Guidelines for writing a critical book review will be provided by the Doctor of Ministry Office.

PRE-APPLICATION PROCESS:

1. Submission of the two page **PRE-APPLICATION** form.
2. Submission of **OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPTS** of all academic work reflecting credit hours the applicant has completed beyond the secondary school level.
3. The Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program will **INTERVIEW** the prospective applicant to receive counsel about the program and the admissions criteria in order to determine the prospect's potential for acceptance into the program. The interview may be held, by telephone or in person, after receipt of a completed pre-application packet and all required, official transcripts.

Note: All forms should be submitted to the attention of Doctor of Ministry Office.

FULL APPLICATION PROCESS:

Applicants who successfully complete the pre-application process are invited to complete the full application form in order to continue the admission evaluation process. The application process may be terminated at any time by either the applicant or by the Director.

1. Complete all items on the **FULL APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION** form. Attach a recent passport style **PHOTOGRAPH** of the applicant in the space provided.
2. Applicants are required to take the **MILLER ANALOGIES TEST (MAT)**. The applicant is advised to secure information about the MAT from the Psychological Corporation, 555 Academic Court, San Antonio, TX 78204 (1-800-228-0752). Website: www.MillerAnalogies.com. The MAT must be taken in time for the score report to be available to the Director when the Director evaluates the application. The MAT may be taken on select college campuses in each state. Scores in the high 50 percentile are considered standard for this program. A MAT taken within the past five years will be accepted.
3. Applicants are required to secure **FIVE CHARACTER REFERENCES FOR ADMISSION** forms from individuals qualified to judge the applicant's potential for ministry and capacity for growth through an advanced study program. References should, if possible, include a former professor in master level studies, a colleague in ministry outside of one's church or agency, a denominational leader, a lay leader in one's church or agency, and a community leader outside one's church or agency. Ask the individual to mail the form directly to the Doctor of Ministry Office.
4. Request that the church of your current membership and/or place of ministry employment to complete the **CHURCH RECOMMENDATION** form. As long as the student is continuously enrolled in the seminary an Annual Certification of Church Membership is required by November 1st following the first year of enrollment.
5. Complete the **MEDICAL INFORMATION** form and provide the **IMMUNIZATION**

HISTORY form signed by a physician.

6. If you are married, have your spouse complete the **SPOUSE'S PERSONAL STATEMENT**.
7. Applicants are required to write and submit an **AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL ESSAY** and **MINISTRY GOALS ESSAY AND CASE STUDY**. This essay should consist of three parts: (1) a description of the applicant's salvation experience, call into ministry, experience in Christian discipleship and experience in ministry, both voluntary and professional; (2) A summary of the applicant's professional and educational goals and expectations as they relate to the Doctor of Ministry Program; (3) A response to a provided case study concerning an actual ministry scenario or problem. This essay will help determine the applicant's quality and style of writing. This essay should be eight to ten pages, typewritten, double-spaced. An instruction sheet with the case study will be provided by the Doctor of Ministry Office.
8. Enclose the \$30 non-refundable **APPLICATION FEE**.
9. Sign and submit the **SOUTHEASTERN COVENANT**.

TUITION AND FEES

Following the Application Fee, students must pay an initial \$1,000 or \$1,500, depending on church affiliation, non-refundable Program Fee upon the receipt of an official acceptance letter. This fee does not include tuition for classes. Tuition cost is paid at a set per hour tuition rate and can be arranged into a convenient FACTS monthly payment plan. At the conclusion of the program students will pay additional fees for the binding of their Ministry Project Report and for graduation. Failure to pay fees on schedule may result in dismissal from the program.

For information about the FACTS payment program, online payments, FAQ's and upcoming deadlines please visit the "Tuition and Fees" section under the Admissions tab or visit the "Payments and Deadlines" under the Accounting Services in the Student Portal from www.sebts.edu. You may also ask to speak with an Accounting Service Coordinator by calling the Accounting Office at (919) 761-2207.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Each student pursuing the Doctor of Ministry degree will work and be supported by a team of scholars, experienced mentors and a peer learning community. Each student will be assigned a Supervisory Committee consisting of a Faculty Supervisor, Faculty Reader, and a Field Mentor. The Director appoints the members of the Committee. Students are to consult with the Director prior to discussing possible service with anyone as a member of their Supervisory Committee.

In order to progress through the program and to be awarded the degree, every student must maintain an academic average of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale. Failure to do so will result in a probationary warning. Following the warning, if a student fails in the next course to maintain a 3.0 they will face possible dismissal from the program.

The Doctor of Ministry program requires a minimum of three years. Extensions in time beyond the three years require the consent of the Director and the Faculty Supervisor. In no case shall the program require more than six years to complete unless the student is actively under appointment and deployed on the international mission field.

Transfer of credit from other accredited DMN Programs or post M.Div. Programs will be considered by the Director on a case-by-case basis. Minimally, all transfer students must satisfactorily complete at least 14 credit hours of DMN work at Southeastern Seminary, including the Ministry Project and Project Report (6 credit hours), two intensive seminars (6 credit hours), and the Research Methods and Project Proposal Workshop (2 credit hours).

Following the Application Fee, students must pay an initial \$1,000 or \$1,500, depending on church affiliation, non-refundable Program Fee upon the receipt of an official acceptance letter. This fee does not include tuition for classes. Tuition cost is paid at a set per hour tuition rate and can be arranged into a convenient FACTS monthly payment plan.

CURRICULUM AND COHORT DESIGN

Prior to acceptance, all Doctor of Ministry students will select a vocational emphasis track during the application process and be assigned to a cohort team made up of other students in the same emphasis track. Upon admission, the student will participate in the curriculum with the same cohort of students throughout the course of study. This cohort design creates a very powerful relational network between the students and allows the educational experience to reach a much deeper level. Fellow cohort members will become friends for life and will provide encouragement and accountability to aid one another in the successful completion of the program.

Every course, every text read, every paper written will focus on the emphasis track. One goal of this program is for the student to become the best possible minister and professional expert in that specific field. In addition, there is a unique and very intentional connection between the coursework and the final Ministry Project and Project Report. There will be no wasted effort in this program. The courses taken and the work done will all prepare the student for the final project and paper. Few, if any other DMN programs, draw such an intentional connection as does this one. Courses will correspond with chapters in the final paper. When students complete the two years of coursework they are well on their way to writing and completing the project and report. The sequential design of the curriculum paints a very clear path toward graduation. Each member of the cohort team is expected to bring doctoral level presentations to the table at each on-campus seminar. From home, courses are taken that include online discussions with the rest of the cohort to maintain a strong connection and to keep the process of learning and encouragement a constant throughout the entire program. Together the peer cohort works to define, discuss and do something about the real issues facing ministry today.

The vocational emphases in which cohorts are currently being formed are:

- Doctor of Ministry with Expository Preaching (DMN 8900 Cohort)
- Doctor of Ministry with Christian Leadership (DMN 8600 Cohort)

- Doctor of Ministry with Missions, Evangelism, and Church Growth (DMN 8800 Cohort)
- Doctor of Ministry with Counseling (DMN 8700 Cohort)

The Doctor of Ministry Program requires a total of 32 hours including 12 hours of intensive five day, on-campus seminars, 12 hours of Contextualized Learning Experience (CLE) courses completed from home with significant online components, 2 hours of Research Methods and Project Proposal Workshop completed in a two day on-campus format, and 6 hours of supervised field experience in the Ministry Project and Project Report.

The seminars are presented in four five-day courses, offered during inter-terms, and designed specifically for each emphasis track. Each course offers 3 hours credit. The seminars provide the student a cohort peer learning experience with fellow students as well as interaction with faculty and guest facilitators. All DMN students have access to the library, and the other Seminary resources. The sequence for the on-campus seminars is:

DMN Seminar I Theoretical and Foundational Issues in (Emphasis area)
 DMN Seminar II Biblical and Theological Foundations for (Emphasis area)
 DMN Seminar III Historical and Contemporary Models of (Emphasis area)
 DMN Seminar IV Practical and Strategic Issues in (Emphasis area)

The CLE course requirements are accomplished from the student's home and taken during the semesters between the on-campus seminars. Each course contains an online component to maintain interaction between the student, cohort, and Faculty. Each course offers 3 hours credit. The course assignments correspond to the previous and upcoming seminars as well as the application of content to the ministry context, and research and preparation for the final project and project report. The simple sequence is:

Contextualized Learning Experience in (Emphasis) I
 Contextualized Learning Experience in (Emphasis) II
 Contextualized Learning Experience in (Emphasis) III
 Contextualized Learning Experience in (Emphasis) IV

The Research and Writing Workshop will be conducted in a two-day format the Friday and Saturday prior to seminar three. The workshop will provide the culmination of prior CLE assignments related to the project and project report as well as provide the necessary instructions for conducting the actual Ministry Project and writing the Project Report.

DMN 8141 Research Methods and Project Proposal Workshop

The student will submit a Ministry Project proposal following the workshop. Upon approval of the proposal, the completion of all four seminars and CLE courses, and once the first three research chapters have been approved, the candidate begins the Ministry Project requiring a minimum of fifteen weeks under the supervision of the committee. Candidates will meet monthly face to face or via the telephone with their Faculty Supervisors and Field Mentors during this time for additional direction and support. During this third year, students will be enrolled in the following courses and will submit chapters to their Faculty Supervisor for approval leading up to a final draft and an oral examination.

- DMN 8151 Ministry Project and Project Report Writing I
- DMN 8152 Ministry Project and Project Report Writing II

MINISTRY PROJECT AND REPORT

A Ministry Project includes specific, planned involvement in the practice of ministry in which a student seeks to develop his or her own skills as a minister, through theological reflection and practical application implemented within the student's own ministry setting. The Ministry Project must be something in which the student is not already engaged. The completed Ministry Project should demonstrate the student's ability to relate professional knowledge, documented in research, with professional performance in reference to a particular ministry situation, problem, challenge, or need. The Ministry Project allows the student to meet specific spiritual, intellectual, and emotional needs related to his or her professional objectives. The Ministry Project must address and meet a critical need in the student's place of ministry. It will hopefully prove to be useful to others sharing similar interest and needs in ministry. It should also demonstrate the student's ability to communicate clearly and effectively by means of the written word.

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY SEQUENCE

Seminars:	12 hours
DMN 8X01.....3 hrs	
DMN 8X02.....3 hrs	
DMN 8X03.....3 hrs	
DMN 8X04.....3 hrs	
Contextualized Learning Experience:	12 hours
DMN 8X11.....3 hrs	
(Follows semester after DMN 8X01)	
DMN 8X12.....3 hrs	
(Follows semester after DMN 8X02)	
DMN 8X13.....3 hrs	
(Follows semester after DMN 8X03)	
DMN 8X14.....3 hrs	
(Follows semester after DMN 8X04)	
Research and Writing Workshop:	2 hours
DMN 8141.....3 hrs	
(Weekend before Seminar III)	
Ministry Project Report Writing:	6 hours
DMN 8151.....3 hrs	
DMN 8152.....3 hrs	
Total Hours	32

THANK YOU!

We are so excited about what we see God doing through the Doctor of Ministry program at Southeastern. Scholars and practitioners are truly coming together in a unique way to tackle some of the most significant issues of our time. If you believe the Lord is leading you to consider this journey with us, please contact us immediately. We stand ready to answer any questions you might have and truly look forward to meeting you and learning about what God is doing in your ministry.

Please contact us at dmin@sebts.edu or at (919) 761-2216. We hope to hear from you today!

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