

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.)

Pursue your calling at Perkins

The Doctor of Ministry program provides the opportunity for advanced study in the areas of vocational and leadership formation and community building. Integrating theological reflection and ministerial practice with these areas of study, Christian leaders build their theological knowledge and gain skills to effectively engage in ministerial work in contexts of change and transition.

D.Min. students are to complete 30 credit hours with a GPA of 3.0 or higher within 3 years. The courses that are taken in the D.Min. Program are:

- Vocation, Leadership and Community
- The Person and Role of a Leader in Ministry
- Leadership and Vocation in Church and Community:
A Theological/Historical Exploration
- Models of Leadership, Social Institutions and
Community Engagements
- Vocation, Leadership and the Bible in Contexts
- Ecclesiology, Community and Models of Leadership
- Contextual Analysis
- Integrative Seminar and Strategic Planning in Contexts
of Change and Transitions
- Directed Study (with assigned advisor)
- Writing Project Seminar



At Perkins School of Theology, you will gain a balance of academic preparedness and hands-on learning to equip you for ministry and leadership in the church of the 21st century.

Learn more about the D. Min. program at smu.edu/dmin

New for June 2023:

Doctor of Ministry students can begin taking D.Min. courses at Methodist Hospital in Houston. If you are interested in joining this initial cohort of 8-12 students, please submit your application at <https://gradadmission.smu.edu/apply/>

Focus: With a specific focus and skill-oriented curriculum, the Doctor of Ministry program draws on faculty strengths from Perkins while addressing the current needs in Christian ministry in and outside of Christian churches and communities.

The goals of the degree are to:

Seek vocational depth and direction

Gain theological knowledge and understanding of vocational and leadership identity in tandem with developing skills for relevant practices of ministry that build communities in context

Acquire knowledge, critical insights and skills to exercise leadership grounded in Christian vocation in contexts of transition and change within the Church and the community

Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) • 30 Credit Hours

Course Requirements: Three years, 30 credit hours total. Two years of coursework, consisting of two 3-credit-hour courses each June and January (12 credit hours per academic year) for a total of 24 credit hours. The third year consists of one 3-credit-hour directed study, and one 3-credit-hour course for the completion of the writing project. Total of 30 credit hours over three years with a GPA of 3.0 or above.

AREAS OF STUDY	CREDIT HOURS	COURSEWORK
Practical Theology	3	DM 9380 Vocation, Leadership & Community
Practical Theology	3	DM 9370 The Person and Role of a Leader in Ministry
Church History	3	DM 9369 Leadership and Vocation in Church and Community: A Theological/Historical Exploration
Theology/Social Entrepreneurship	3	DM 9379 Models of Leadership, Social Institutions and Community Engagements
Biblical Studies	3	DM 9359 Vocation, Leadership and the Bible in Contexts
Systematic Theology	3	DM 9350 Ecclesiology, Community and Models of Leadership
Practical Theology	3	DM 9347 Contextual Analysis
Practical Theology	3	DM 9309 Integrative Seminar and Strategic Planning in Contexts of Change and Transitions
Directed Study	3	DM 9390 Directed Study (with assigned advisor)
Writing Project	3	DM 9394 Writing Project



Learn more

at one of our exploratory discernment events (both in-person and virtual).



Request information

by visiting our Admission website.



Perkins friends and alums,

we invite you to refer prospective students here.