
THE DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Philosophy

The program is designed to permit the student to remain in his present ministry while completing the degree program. However, the student should allot enough time to complete the work with excellence. The program will demand 600–800 hours a year for three years to complete. Although many of these hours should already be scheduled in expository preaching preparation, some hours will have to be devoted to the program above and beyond one's present ministry. As much as possible, the seminar projects and Preaching Research Project will relate directly to the ongoing expository ministry in one's local church.

Program Description

Purpose—The Doctor of Ministry degree in Expository Preaching is designed to equip pastors and church leaders in the skills of sermon preparation and public exposition of Scripture. The program engages the classical disciplines of exegesis (principles and practice of interpretation), exposition (principles and practice of content synthesis), and eloquence (principles and practice of rhetoric) to enhance sermon preparation and delivery. The degree is intended for ministry professionals who desire further education but who simultaneously wish to remain on their respective fields of service. The D.Min. curriculum builds upon the Master of Divinity or Master of Theology degrees, but strongly focuses on the skills needed for the exposition of Scripture.

Character and Commitments—Both faculty and students involved in the TMS D.Min. program are to model the following characteristics and commitments of a master expositor:

Four Characteristics of a Faithful Expositor:

- A true disciple of Christ
- A spiritually mature man
- A humble man with a shepherd's heart
- An honest critic regarding the value and quality of his own ministry

Four Commitments to Christ-exalting Preaching:

- A resolute commitment to a high view of Scripture
- An unwavering practice of a historical/grammatical approach to interpreting Scripture
- A firm devotion to an effective delivery style that is true to the text of Scripture yet relevant to his congregation
- A thorough familiarity with and adherence to the orthodox doctrines of the Christian faith as outlined in the TMS Statement of Faith

Focus—Like the TMS Master of Divinity program, the Doctor of Ministry program focuses on three areas of special emphasis: biblical/theological understanding, personal growth, and professional enhancement. A thorough understanding of the Bible and theology is further developed through the material prepared for D.Min. seminars. Hermeneutical practice, biblical language use, and contemporary discussion form the basis of the work done by the pastor before arrival on campus. Personal growth is fostered through interaction between the pastor, his professor, and fellow students at on-campus seminars and ongoing contacts. Professional enhancement is furthered by the application of the seminar material in a post-seminar ministry project with professional and peer feedback. A final Preaching Research Project reviews and applies the material of the program to a specific area of expository preaching.

Distinctives—The TMS Doctor of Ministry degree offers the following distinctives:

- Designed for the seasoned M.Div./Th.M. pastor who has the capabilities and desires to improve both the content and delivery of his expository preaching
- Uniquely focused curriculum on the exegesis and exposition of Scripture
- Taught by both seminary professors and full-time expositors
- Required elder qualifications, as taught in 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9, as a basis for entrance into the program

Design of the Program—Following the historical design of D.Min. programs, the TMS D.Min. program is designed to permit the student to remain in his present ministry location. The seminars will be offered in a two-week period in July and a one-week period in January. Each of the seminar periods will commence on a Wednesday and end on a Tuesday. Consequently, the student will be absent from his pulpit three Sundays during the year. The seminar projects will necessitate that the student be preaching on a weekly basis in his home church. The oral defense of the Preaching Research Project will be on-campus, but will be scheduled mid-week to allow the student time to travel without missing a Sunday in his church.

Overview of the Program—The overall program and individual seminars are intended to develop the student/preacher in the three classical disciplines of sermon preparation. Each seminar embraces one or more pedagogical goals relating to these three disciplines. The following table displays the pedagogical categorization of the individual seminars, without regard for curriculum sequence:

Seminars Categorized by Pedagogical Emphasis

<u>Exegesis</u> (Principles & Practice of Hermeneutics)	<u>Exposition</u> (Principles & Practice of Content Synthesis)	<u>Eloquence</u> (Principles & Practice of Rhetoric)
Doctoral Research & Methods	Doctoral Research & Methods	Doctoral Research & Methods
_____	Historical & Contemporary Models of Exp. Preaching	Historical & Contemporary Models of Exp. Preaching
Hermeneutics & Exposition	Hermeneutics & Exposition	_____
Preaching the Old Testament	Preaching the Old Testament	Preaching the Old Testament
Preaching the New Testament	Preaching the New Testament	Preaching the New Testament
Theological Trends & Doctrinal Preaching	Theological Trends & Doctrinal Preaching	Theological Trends & Doctrinal Preaching
_____	Homiletics & Sermon Delivery	Homiletics & Sermon Delivery
Forums 1–4	Forums 1–4	Forums 1–4

Each seminar is conducted to enhance the skills and knowledge relating to two or three of the sermon preparation disciplines respectively. The sequence of the curriculum is designed to be linear, progressing from seminars exploring the more general and historical issues of expository preaching to studies in specific biblical genres of Old and New Testaments, and culminating in an intensive examination of rhetorical/homiletical theory and models (see “Seminars Categorized by Time Sequence”).

Seminars Categorized by Time Sequence (*and units earned*)

	FALL (July)	SPRING (January)
Year 1	Beginning Personal Preaching Evaluation (1.0)	Preaching the Old Testament (4.0)
	Doctoral Research & Methods (1.0)	
	Historical & Contemporary Models of Expository Preaching (3.0)	
	Hermeneutics & Exposition (4.0)	Forum Two (0.5)
	Forum One (0.5)	
Year 2	Preaching the New Testament (4.0)	Homiletics & Sermon Delivery (4.0)
	Theological Trends & Doctrinal Preaching (4.0)	
	Forum Three (0.5)	Forum Four (0.5)
Year 3		Final Personal Preaching Evaluation (1.0)
	Preaching Research Project (4.0)	Preaching Research Project (4.0)

Assessments—Students will be assessed at each stage of learning through the program in knowledge and skills. The primary instrument for assessing knowledge is the seminar evaluation, while skills are assessed through personal preaching critiques.

1. Personal Preaching Critique Evaluation—To assess progress in preaching skills, each student is asked upon admission, but prior to the first on-site seminar, to preach assigned texts from the Old and New Testaments. Study files for each sermon are to be submitted, including lexical and syntactical studies, background and contextual observations, and expository assimilation. These initial sermons will be videotaped and archived by the student and TMS. After completion of the final seminar, the student will preach new sermons from the same texts. The final videotapes and study files will be reviewed and compared by a TMS faculty member. Assessments will be made on the degree of improvement in exegesis, exposition, and eloquence.
2. Seminar Evaluation—Each seminar syllabus includes specific learning objectives, outlining what the student is expected to accomplish. Students are assessed by the quality of their completed assignments before, during, and after each seminar. Following each individual seminar, the student will involve leaders and congregants of his church in a simple but thorough assessment of the content and delivery of a sermon series of at least four to six weeks of sermons. The student will interact with written evaluations from the evaluators as well as a discussion group made up of the evaluators. While TMS faculty evaluations reflect an academic/professional assessment, those of church leadership and congregants reflect a most important aspect of a D.Min. degree, thereby impacting the vocation of the student.

Admission to Candidacy Status

Application to Candidacy—For a student to achieve candidacy all classes must be completed with an overall grade-point average of 3.0 (with no grade below B-). Additionally, the initial and final evaluation of the student's assigned sermon tapes must receive a favorable review, reflecting significant

improvement. The student must also have received approval of his D.Min. Preaching Research Project proposal. Upon completion of the above, the student may apply for formal admission to candidacy. An Application for Admission to Candidacy Status form is available from the D.Min. office. The D.Min. Committee will review the application and, upon evidence of the above stated requirements and the continuation of a biblical standard of character (ethos) as measured by the elder-qualification standards of 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9, will advance the student to candidacy status.

Length of Program—The D.Min. program is to be completed in two years (twice a year) of on-campus seminars plus one year for completing the Preaching Research Project. Exceptions are made only in cases of extreme emergency.

Graduation Requirements—Candidates for the D.Min. degree must complete all seminar work and the Preaching Research Project with a minimum of a 3.0 GPA. The completion of the minimal requirements does not automatically qualify the student for the degree. The candidate must have demonstrated to the faculty both the continuation of a biblical standard of character, as measured by the elder-qualification standards of 1 Timothy 3:1–7 and Titus 1:5–9, and an expository proficiency. All financial obligations to TMS must be met before the awarding of the diploma and the issuing of transcripts.

Admissions Requirements

1. Normally, a minimum of five years of post-M.Div./Th.M. experience, including the weekly exposition of Scripture.
2. Completion of an application (available from the TMS admissions office or the TMS Web site), in which the following are required:
 - Personal history, academic history, and employment history
 - Dated ministry history
 - Doctrinal agreement section
 - Personal testimony, ministry summary, and objectives for pursuing the D.Min. degree
 - Three references
 - Ministry associate
 - Church leader
 - Church member
3. Official transcripts verifying academic credentials: An M.Div. degree with at least a 3.0 GPA
4. A letter of support from the pastor's leadership board
5. Successful completion of a personal interview
6. A videotape/DVD containing two of the applicant's sermons, one from the Old Testament and one from the New Testament. The applicant is to include exegetical research notes and copies of the notes or manuscripts from which the sermons were preached.
7. Essays dealing with biblical, theological, and ministry topics to determine the applicant's writing ability.

Please note that the application, letter of support, and videotape(s)/DVD(s) must be received by December 15 of the year before the student plans to begin the program. By March 1, all transcripts, personal interview record, and admission essays must be in the TMS office. Once the applicant is officially accepted, he will begin his work in Personal Preaching Evaluation. This preparatory D.Min. course must be completed by June 15. The student will then begin his seminars with his cohort (7–15 students) in July at TMS. Be advised that each of the July seminars will require pre-seminar work, so it will be required that the applicant work ahead of these deadlines.

Initial Matriculation Requirements

Doctoral Research and Methods Seminar—Each student begins his on-campus seminar work in Doctoral Research and Methods. This seminar will give him guidance as to how to choose, develop, and complete his final project. The completion of this seminar will result in the student's proposed Preaching Research Project and tentative schedule for completion.

Mentor/Adviser—The Director of the Doctor of Ministry program, based on the student's chosen topic for his Preaching Research Project, will assign a mentor/adviser to oversee the applicant's studies. This mentor/adviser will direct the research, evaluation, and writing of the student's Preaching Research Project.

On-Campus Requirements

Each student will be placed in a cohort of 7 (minimum) to 15 (maximum) students who will begin the on-campus seminars in July of each year. The student must take each seminar in the proscribed order with his cohort. Only an emergency, as approved by the D.Min. Director, would allow the student to delay his seminars with his assigned cohort and be assigned to a later group. The student is advised that once he enters the program he is committing himself to the orderly completion of all of the required seminars.

Preaching Research Project Requirements

The final phase of the D.Min. process involves the development and implementation of the Preaching Research Project. This component of the program is intended to demonstrate the student's knowledge, preaching skills, research methods, theological understanding, and practical ministry abilities. The Preaching Research Project should exhibit the student's ability to relate preaching knowledge (demonstrated in research) with his preaching skills.

Because valuable research and data will be accumulated during the seminar coursework, each student is expected to decide his project topic by the second on-site seminar visit to TMS (January term). The role of the student's faculty adviser will be to insure a meaningful and significant project. Final approval for the Preaching Research Project must be gained by the third on-site seminar visit to TMS (July of second year). The D.Min. Director and project adviser must approve all projects.

The length of the Preaching Research Project will be no less than 100 pages and no more than 200 pages. It must include doctoral level research as well as professional experience. Each thesis will be individually designed around the student's preaching context.

The Project Format—All project drafts must be prepared in conformity with the latest editions of the seminary's *Guidelines for Theses and Dissertations*, Turabian's *A Manual for Writers of Term Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, and Walker & Taylor's *The Columbia Guide to Online Style*. Where these sources differ, the seminary's *Guidelines* takes precedence.

The Project Deadlines and Acceptance—The outline, chapter one, and bibliography of the Preaching Research Project are due no later than July 1 of the year prior to anticipated graduation. A complete initial draft (DM 937) of the Preaching Research Project is due no later than November 1 of the semester prior to anticipated graduation. A final draft of the Project (DM 938), incorporating any corrections and/or suggestions of the readers, is due February 15 of the anticipated semester of graduation and should be submitted in triplicate, plus one electronic copy as an institutional backup, to the D.Min. Director for proper tracking.

The Oral Defense of the Project—Once the project adviser deems the final draft is ready, a defense, chaired by the student’s mentor/adviser, will be conducted on the TMS campus. Scheduled no later than April 1 of the semester of anticipated graduation, the date and place of the defense will be announced to all faculty so that interested members may attend. Two copies of the table of contents, with a ten-to-fifteen page, annotated outline of the project, must be presented to the project chair no later than two weeks prior to the oral defense.

Following the defense, the faculty will be given opportunity to make suggestions to the D.Min. candidate and his adviser. Subsequently, the project adviser and the D.Min. Director will meet to decide upon one of the following actions:

- Approve the project and its defense, subject to any minor revisions required by the committee;
- Delay graduation by rejecting the dissertation and its defense until major revisions are completed under the direction of the mentor/adviser, necessitating another defense for the following year;
- Reject the project and its defense and terminate the student’s program.

The project adviser will immediately notify the student of the group’s decision.

Graduation Specifics

Once approval of the Preaching Research Project and its defense has been granted, the student must submit by the first Friday in April the following items:

- An “Application for Graduation.”
- An approved original printed copy, three photocopies, and one electronic copy of the final project to the Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program. Each copy must include a one-page, single-spaced abstract. Additional copies for personal use may be submitted for binding.
- A vitae sheet, written in narrative style and including the date and place of birth, a summary of the candidate’s professional and academic career, degrees earned, publications, memberships, and special honors.

Payment of Accounts

All tuition, fees, and charges are due and payable upon registration for all required seminars. Registration is required 30 days before a seminar(s) begins.

Refunds

Refunds of tuition payments will only be made in the case of an emergency. Please submit the request in writing to the D.Min. Director.

Housing and Related Items

To further encourage cohort community and peer exchange, TMS has arranged for a common living location and transportation provision. Meal arrangements are the responsibility of the student.

All required seminars will begin on Wednesday and end on Tuesday. It is the student’s responsibility to arrange his travel to arrive on the TMS campus by 7:00 A.M. on the Wednesday morning that the seminar begins. He should plan to be on campus through the end of the on-campus term. No early departures will be allowed, except for emergencies.