



ACADEMIC FOUNDATION FOR THE UNION UNIVERSITY DOCTOR OF MINISTRY IN EXPOSITORY PREACHING

The standard academic preparation for the Union University Doctor of Ministry is a Master of Divinity from a regionally accredited seminary, university, graduate school of religion, or divinity school. (These are collectively referred to below as “accredited graduate divinity schools.”) Preference is given to applicants whose master’s work includes at least 6 semester hours of biblical Greek and 6 semester hours of biblical Hebrew.

Union University recognizes that many prospective students have enrolled in accredited graduate divinity schools in programs of study other than the Master of Divinity. Such degrees include the Master of Christian Studies, the Master of Religious Education, or the Master of Arts in a discipline such as Old Testament. We therefore have established that “Master of Divinity Equivalency” also meets the academic requirement for admission to the Doctor of Ministry. Each applicant in this category will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis. However, such applicants should have received a master’s degree from an accredited graduate divinity school **and** they must have earned a **minimum of 81 semester hours of master’s-level credit** in accredited graduate divinity schools before they will be admitted to our Doctor of Ministry program of study. Guidelines for meeting requirements for each category of study are as follows.

Biblical, Theological, and Historical Studies

1. Old Testament	9-12 hours, including at least 6 hours of survey
2. New Testament	9-12 hours, including at least 6 hours of survey
3. Theology	6-9 hours, including at least 6 hours of survey
4. Church History	6-9 hours, including at least 6 hours of survey
5. Hermeneutics (Interpreting the Bible)	3-6 hours

Languages and Preaching Studies

6. Biblical Greek	0-9 hours
7. Biblical Hebrew	0-9 hours
8. Homiletics (Communicating the Bible)	6-9 hours

Ministry Studies

9. Leadership or Religious Education	3-9 hours
10. Christian Ethics or Christian Apologetics	3-9 hours
11. Christian Counseling or Pastoral Care	3-9 hours
12. Evangelism and/or Missions	3-9 hours

For each of these 12 categories, the first number in the right column is the **minimum** number of semester hours required in that category to meet Master of Divinity Equivalency. Thus, 51 of the 81 required semester hours are specified. The remaining 18 hours may be gained in a number of ways, including courses that fit in categories not mentioned above, such as spiritual formation or philosophy of religion. Thus, for example, all students must have earned at least 6 church history hours in order to meet Master of Divinity Equivalency. The second number in the right column is the **maximum** number of hours that students should complete in that category as they seek Master of Divinity Equivalency. Thus, for example, once prospective students have completed 9 hours in church history, they should broaden their preparation by selecting courses from the other categories. The Doctor of Ministry Program Director provides case-by-case assessment of each student seeking Master of Divinity Equivalency. Applicants will be informed in writing when Master of Divinity Equivalency has been established only after Union University has received official transcripts from all accredited graduate divinity schools the student has attended.