

SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Degrees Offered

Available on the Jackson, Germantown, Hendersonville Campuses

Available on the Birmingham Campus, electronically only

- Master of Christian Studies

Available at the Olford Center of the Germantown Campus

- Doctor of Ministry with an Emphasis in Expository Preaching

Mission Statement

The School of Christian Studies exists to advanced the Kingdom of God through theological education by integrating rigorous academics, deep devotion to Christ and His Church, skill in teaching, and attention to students as individuals.

MASTER OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

THE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Purpose Statement

The Master of Christian Studies exists to raise the level of ministry competence among church staff and laypersons in the churches of the Mid-South region.

Program Emphases

Two primary emphases are at the core of the Master of Christian Studies program. First, the courses offered are foundational, both in terms of the student's ability to think biblically and theologically, as well as in terms of specific ministry skills. The courses in Old Testament, New Testament, Theology, Ethics, and Church History lay a foundation that grounds students both biblically and theologically. The courses on Bible Study, Communicating Biblical Truth, Evangelism and Missions, Leadership, and Counseling, are designed to help the student grow in these vital ministry skills. These two areas, thinking rightly and ministering effectively, must be seen as working in a synergetic relationship. The goal is to think biblically and theologically to make ministry more effective. Well-developed ministry skills then become the natural means of living out biblical and theological truths.

A second primary emphasis of the Master of Christian Studies program is integration. Too often theological education is fragmented into isolated classes that are unconnected and coursework that is not directly linked to ministry in the church. The M.C.S. program will integrate courses, with pairs of courses being strategically integrated to demonstrate how the subject matters interrelate. For instance, Preaching and Old Testament II might be taught during the same term. In that semester students might be asked to reflect on the Old Testament foundations of preaching, as well as how they should preach from the Old Testament. In addition, classroom assignments will encourage students to apply classroom learning to the ministry of the local church. This will happen not only in the ministry skill courses, but also in biblical and theological foundation classes. For example, assignments in Theology I might require students to design and teach a substantive, ten-week seminar on the doctrine of God. Other classes might call for students to write a case study on how the doctrine of humanity relates to a particularly difficult counseling situation in the church.

The M.C.S. program seeks to advance God's kingdom in the churches of the Mid-South by laying a solid foundation for ministry and by teaching students to integrate their studies with their real world ministry.

Required courses include:

Old Testament I: Promise, Covenant, and Praise 3 hrs.
Old Testament II: Wisdom, Justice, and God's Rule .. 3 hrs.
New Testament I: Gospels and Acts 3 hrs.
New Testament II: Letters of the New Testament 3 hrs.
Bible Study for Preaching and Teaching 3 hrs.
Theology I: God, Revelation and Humanity 3 hrs.
Theology II: Christ, the Spirit, and Last Things 3 hrs.
Church History I: Early and Medieval Christianity 3 hrs.

Church History II: Reformation and Modern

Christianity 3 hrs.
Communicating Biblical Truth 3 hrs.
Evangelism and Missions 3 hrs.
Introduction to Christian Ethics 3 hrs.
Christian Leadership 3 hrs.
The Ministry of Biblical Counsel 3 hrs.

Total: 42 hrs.

Expected Outcomes

- Students will deepen their analytical skills as they reflect seriously on the biblical text, theology, church history, and how these apply to the various tasks and ministries of the church.
- Students will integrate what they learn in class with ministry done from week to week in their local churches.
- Students will serve their churches more effectively as they become more biblically literate, historically, theologically, and ethically reflective.
- Students will serve their churches more effectively as they become more skilled in various aspects of ministry, including Bible study, preaching, teaching, counseling, and leading.
- Students will be more motivated to participate, and lead their churches in advancing the kingdom of God through missions and evangelism.
- Students will be "doers of the Word," applying the Bible responsibly to their personal lives and ministries.
- Students will understand the integration between various disciplines in the curriculum.

Academic Calendars and Schedules

Calendars and Schedule of Course offerings for the M.C.S. program follow those for non-cohort programs.

For additional information see

<http://www.uu.edu/academics/graduate/mcs/>

Admission Requirements

1. A Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution as documented on official transcripts, which must include all postsecondary academic work
2. A minimum college cumulative grade point average of 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with a college cumulative grade point average below 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale) are accepted on academic probation on an individual basis.
3. Complete Union M.C.S. Application Form and \$25 application fee.
4. A Letter of Affirmation from the applicant's local church, stating that the applicant is a member in good standing and actively involved in ministry.
5. Three personal letters of recommendation.
6. An Autobiographical Essay of 3-5 pages, describing the applicant's spiritual pilgrimage.
7. If English is not a student's first language, minimum scores of 560 or 220 computer must be achieved on the TOEFL.

Transfer of Credit

Up to nine semester hours of graduate credit from a regionally accredited college or university may be transferred into the degree program at the time the student is admitted provided the grades earned were B or higher.

Financial Information

Application Fee:\$25
Graduation Fee:\$25
Tuition per Semester Hour:\$265

Payment is expected in full upon enrollment unless the student participates in a FACTS monthly electronic draft from checking or savings account.

Financial Assistance

The M.C.S. does not qualify for Federal Stafford Loans. However, the student may contact the Student Financial Planning Office about private alternative loans.

Graduation Requirements

- A. The completion of 42 hours of course work with a GPA of 3.0 or higher
- B. The fulfillment of all financial obligations
- C. The approval of the faculty

Course Descriptions: Master of Christian Studies (MCS)

500. Old Testament I: Promise, Covenant, and Praise (3)
An investigation of the theological implications of God's promises that were given to his covenant people, as well as the people's response to God in praise and lament. This course will analyze these themes through the study of the history, background, literary genre, structure, and theology of Genesis through Psalms. Exegetical methodologies for analyzing narrative and poetic texts will be introduced.

505. Old Testament II: Wisdom, Justice, and God's Rule (3)

An investigation of how practical principles of divine wisdom impact human behavior and doubting, how God's plan to create a world of justice and trust impacted Israelite and world history, and how God's sovereign power will one day triumph and usher in the messianic kingdom. This course will introduce a method of analyzing the prophet's messages in order to perceive how they attempted to transform the worldview of their audiences by persuading them to change their thinking and behavior.

510. New Testament I: The Gospel and Acts (3)

A survey of the Gospels and Acts with more intensive study of selected texts and issues. Included are a survey of New Testament background, evaluation of various critical approaches to the life of Christ, consideration of the historical reliability of the Gospels, and a survey of central theological themes in the teaching of Jesus, the individual Gospels, and the book of Acts.

515. New Testament II: The Letters of the New Testament (3)

A survey of the Pauline epistles, the general epistles and Revelation, with more intensive study of selected texts and issues. Included is a survey of basic issues in Pauline theology, issues in interpreting New Testament letters and the hermeneutics of the book of Revelation.

520. Bible Study for Preaching and Teaching (3)

An exploration of the methods, tools, and practices associated with the interpretation and application of the Bible. Students will exegete selected biblical passages, moving from the ancient text to the modern world.

530. Church History I: Early and Medieval Christianity (3)

A survey of the history of Christianity from the late first century through the fifteenth century, focusing on the development of pivotal doctrines and ecclesiastical institutions in the Patristic and Medieval periods.

531. Church History II: Reformation and Modern Christianity (3)

A survey of the history of Christianity from the early sixteenth century to the early twenty-first century, focusing on the development of pivotal doctrines and ecclesiastical institutions in the Reformation and Modern periods.

535. Communicating Biblical Truth (3)

Communicating Biblical Truth is a study of the basics of sermon development and delivery, as well as the art and craft of teaching biblical truth.

536. Evangelism and Missions (3)

An introduction to the ministry of evangelism and missions that moves from its biblical basis and theological foundations to a study of contemporary strategies, methodologies, movements, and trends with a focus on their practical application.

537. Introduction to Christian Ethics (3)

An introduction to Christian ethics that focuses on ethical methodology and application of Christian ethical principles to key issues in church and society.

538. Christian Leadership (3)

The course focuses on how biblical values affect models of organizational leadership within the local church and other Christian institutions.

539. The Ministry of Biblical Counsel (3)

An introduction to the underlying principles and methods involved in offering biblical counseling in today's church and society.

545. Theology I: God, Revelation, and Humanity (3)

A study of the nature, method, and content of Christian theology, the course will focus on prolegomena, God and revelation, and the doctrine of humanity.

546. Theology II: Christ, the Spirit, and Last Things (3)

A study of nature, method, and content of Christian theology, the course will focus on the person and work of Christ, Holy Spirit, Salvation, Church and Last Things.

579. External Domestic Study Programs (1-4)

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

580. Study Abroad Programs (1-4)

All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

585. Special Study (1-4)

Group studies which do not appear in the department course offerings. Course content will be determined by need.

598. Seminar (1-4)

Graduate studies seminar to be used at the discretion of the department.

655. Independent Study (1-4)

Individual research and study under the guidance of a graduate faculty member.

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

THE SCHOOL OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Available at the Stephen Olford Center of the Germantown Campus

Purpose Statement

The Doctor of Ministry with an Emphasis in Expository Preaching is designed to enhance the art and practice of expository preaching.

Program Outcomes

- Deeper understanding of the nature and purpose of expository preaching, informed by a biblical, theological, and practical study of expository preaching
- Advanced competency in the preparation and delivery of expository sermons
- Demonstrable research skills evidenced by a fresh contribution to the praxis of expository preaching through a doctoral dissertation or project
- Expertise in advancing the ministry and practice of expository preaching
- Professional growth in related ministry dimensions such as personal spiritual formation, biblically balanced min-

istry, church renewal and revival, and evangelism and global missions

- Greater personal spiritual maturity through an increased love for God, Scripture, persons, and expository preaching

Calendar

The Doctor of Ministry is delivered in two semesters per year. All seminars are delivered on site at the Stephen Olford Center. Seminars will require pre-seminar assignments. The student begins the program with the Summer/Fall Semester by enrolling in the July Seminar(s). Seminar 1 will meet Monday through Friday of the second week, beginning the second Monday following July 5, and Seminar 2 will meet Monday through Friday of the third week, beginning the third Monday following July 5. The Winter/Spring Semester offerings include Seminar 1 Monday through Friday, beginning the second Monday after January 2, and Seminar 2 Monday through Friday, beginning the third Monday after January 2. Post-seminar assignments are to be completed and courses graded by the end of the semester in December and May respectively. Faculty will announce deadlines for post-seminar assignments in course syllabi to meet the published semester grading period.

Admissions Requirements

Application Foundations

Applicants must be employed by or hold a recognized position in vocational Christian ministry at the time of their application. Preference in admission is given to students who have advanced preparation in biblical languages. The following are the minimum levels of education and experience that an applicant must fulfill before beginning seminars.

- A Master of Divinity or its equivalent from a regionally accredited seminary. See below for information regarding the “Academic Foundation;” ie., the “Master of Divinity Equivalency.”
- A grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale throughout all master’s-level studies.
- Three full years of vocational Christian ministry after completion of master’s study.

Prospective students are requested to contact the Doctor of Ministry Office if they have questions about whether they have established an adequate foundation the Doctor of Ministry study as indicated above. International applicants are welcome, but must contact the Doctor of Ministry Office for additional admission requirements.

Academic Foundation

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.

Application Requirements

- The completed official application form along with a \$50 non-refundable application fee. The official form is included as part of this document.

- Official transcripts from all institutions of higher education attended since high school. A transcript request form is included with this document. Applicants are responsible for photocopying this request form as needed and sending it to their respective institutions. Many institutions make it possible to request this via the internet.
- A ministry endorsement letter, showing that the applicant's church-related employer supports the applicant's intention to pursue doctoral study. The form included in this application should be completed and returned to the Doctor of Ministry Office by the employer.
- Three evaluative references. Applicants are responsible for signing the waiver on each form and providing each reference an envelope and postage for returning the reference directly to the Doctor of Ministry Office.
- A personal history essay describing significant influences in life, particularly conversion and spiritual growth, call to ministry, important ministry experiences, and current understanding and practice of preaching. This essay should be 8-10 pages, double spaced, using 12-point font and one-inch margins.
- A sermon manuscript that demonstrates exegesis of a biblical text. It is to be a complete manuscript that includes every word that would be used in sermon delivery, including introduction, illustrations, and call for response. The manuscript should be appropriate for a sermon lasting twenty to thirty minutes. This manuscript should double spaced, using 12-point font and one-inch margins.

Application Deadlines

Applicants must complete all elements of their application file and be officially accepted into the program before they can enroll in their first seminars. The size of each entering class is limited, and preference is given to students who apply early. The deadline for receiving the application and application fee is **March 1**. The deadline for receiving all other application materials is **May 1**. A personal or telephone interview with the Program Director is scheduled by the Doctor of Ministry Office after all elements of the application file are received. The deadline for the admission interview is **May 15**. Applicants are notified of their admission status not later than **June 1**.

Financial Information

Application Fee.....	\$ 50
Tuition per semester hour	\$ 350
Graduation Fee.....	\$ 25

Payment is expected in full upon enrollment unless the student participates in a FACTS monthly electronic draft from checking or savings account.

Financial Aid

The Doctor of Ministry does not qualify for Federal Stafford Loans. However, the student may contact the Student Financial Planning Office about private alternative loans.

Graduation Requirements

Required Courses

DMIN 610, Critical Issues in Expository Preaching ..	3 hours
DMIN 615, Spiritual Formation and Expository Preaching	3 hours
DMIN 620, Ministry Research Seminar	3 hours
DMIN 625, Sermon Content and Delivery	3 hours
DMIN 630, Expository Preaching and New Testament Texts	3 hours
DMIN 635, Expository Preaching and Old Testament Texts	3 hours
DMIN 640, Expository Preaching and Evangelism	3 hours
DMIN 785-6-7, Doctoral Preaching Elective Seminar	3 hours
DMIN 785-6-7, Doctoral Preaching Elective Seminar	3 hours
DMIN 800, Project and Dissertation	6-12 hours
Total Program Hours	33-39 hours

Doctoral Processes

Phase 1: Ministry Research Seminar (DMIN 620).

1. Pre-seminar week: students prepare at least three possible problems/projects that could become the focus of the DMin dissertation/project.
2. During the seminar week: students decide on a project topic, determine the research model/process they will follow, and begin developing a bibliography. During this week, the professor will work with each student in helping secure a SCS faculty member to serve as dissertation chair. Dissertation chairs will be finalized not later than one month after the end of the seminar week.
3. During the post-seminar period:
 - a. Students refine their topic (in conjunction with the professor of the research seminar and with their dissertation chair) and complete a proposal for their dissertation/project.
 - b. The dissertation chair recruits the dissertation committee, consisting of two other persons. One of these will be an SCS faculty member. The third person may be an SCS faculty member, but may also be a UU faculty member from another discipline or may be a qualified non-faculty member, such as a pastor.

- c. The professor of the research seminar has responsibility for assigning the grade for the DMIN 620 seminar.

Phase 2: From the completion of the Ministry Research Seminar to the completion of all seminars.

1. The dissertation chair works with the student in research and further development of the project.
2. The dissertation chair works with the student and with the IRB (Institutional Review Board) to gain any necessary IRB approval.
3. The dissertation proposal is submitted to the DMin Committee of the SCS faculty. The DMin Committee works with the dissertation committee and the student until the DMin Committee approves the proposal.

Phase 3: From the completion of all seminars to graduation.

1. After DMin Committee has given formal approval of the proposal and after the successful completion of all nine DMin seminars, the DMin program director will notify the student of official candidacy status.
2. The student must register for DMIN 800 the next semester after completing all nine seminars. Enrollment in DMIN 800 must continue for at least two consecutive semesters. During this time, the dissertation chair will work closely with the student to bring the dissertation to final form. It is during these two semesters ONLY that the dissertation chair will get teaching load credit (or financial consideration) for chairing a dissertation.
3. The student may register for DMIN 800 for up to four consecutive semesters. No break in registration will be permitted. (In exceptional circumstances, the student may appeal to the Dean of the School of Christian Studies for a break in this continuous enrollment requirement or for extension beyond four semesters.)
4. The dissertation in final form must be submitted to the dissertation chair not later than Friday of the first week of the regular semester (fall or spring) at which the student expects to graduate. The chair will have one month to work with the student to make any further revisions.
5. A formal dissertation defense before the entire dissertation committee must occur not later than the beginning of fall break or spring break of the semester of graduation.
6. Any last-minute revisions must be finalized not later than one week before graduation. Three final copies of the dissertation must be submitted not later than one week before graduation.

Course Descriptions: Doctor of Ministry (DMIN)

610. Critical Issues in Expository Preaching (3) Summer
Corequisite: DMIN 615.

An examination of biblical, theological, incarnational, and practical principles related to the practice of ministry generally and preaching in particular. Included in this seminar will be a presentation of the "Covenant of Learning," which students must fulfill on a continuing basis in order to remain in good standing in the program.

615. Spiritual Formation and Expository Preaching (3) Summer

Corequisite: DMIN 610.

An examination of the relationship between personal spiritual development and preaching. Models of spiritual growth will be discussed, emphasizing how preaching relates to life change in individuals, congregations, and societies. The relationship between God's Word and God's Spirit in expository preaching will be explored.

620. Ministry Research Seminar (3) Winter

Prerequisite: DMIN 610.

An introduction to methods of research necessary for completion of the DMinEP dissertation or project.

625. Sermon Content and Delivery (3) Winter

Prerequisites: DMIN 610 and 615.

Aspects of sermon content will be studied with a view to improving message content. Also, there will be an analysis and assessment of the dynamics of communication in relations to the practice of expository preaching. Biblical principles related to communication will be explored, as well as contemporary theory and models.

630. Expository Preaching and New Testament Texts (3) Summer

Prerequisites: DMIN 610 and 615.

An in-depth study of the genres of literature in the New Testament, focusing on hermeneutical and homiletical issues related to preparing expository messages from the New Testament.

635. Expository Preaching and Old Testament Texts (3) Winter

Prerequisites: DMIN 610 and 615.

An in-depth study of the genres of literature in the Old Testament, focusing on hermeneutical and homiletical issues related to preparing expository messages from the Old Testament.

640. Expository Preaching and Evangelism (3) Winter

Prerequisites: DMIN 610 and 615.

A consideration of how preaching engages culture and the world. Focuses on the dynamics of evangelistic preaching and preaching cross-culturally.

800. Project and Dissertation (3 each) Winter and Summer

Prerequisite: Successful completion of all nine DMIN seminars and permission of the Doctor of Ministry in Expository Preaching Program Director.

The writing of an original dissertation that contributes significantly to the praxis of expository preaching.

Other Variable Credit and Variable Content Courses

655. Independent Study (1-3)

Individual research and study under the guidance of a Doctor of Ministry in Expository Preaching professor.

679, 779. External Domestic Study Programs (1-4)

All courses and their application to the program must be defined prior to travel.

680, 780. Study Abroad Study Programs (1-4)

All courses and their application to the program must be defined prior to travel.

785, 786, 787. Doctoral Preaching Elective Seminar (3)

Group seminars which do not appear in the School course offerings.