Purpose Statement

The Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis in expository preaching, offered at the Stephen Olford Center and in Singapore, is designed to enhance the art and practice of expository preaching. The Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis in leadership, offered in Singapore only, is designed to provide advanced competency in biblical leadership.

Program Emphases

The first emphasis of the Doctor of Ministry is advanced-level professional preparation in either expository preaching or biblical leadership. The second emphasis is equipping students to research and develop appropriate new insights and expertise into their current ministry field through their doctoral dissertation. The D.Min. program seeks to advance God’s kingdom in churches around the world by preparing pastors and other ministry leaders with the highest professional skill in expository preaching or biblical leadership.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes (Stephen Olford Center)

- Students will have a deeper understanding of the nature and purpose of expository preaching.
- Students will gain advanced competency in the preparation and delivery of expository sermons.
- Students will demonstrate professional growth in related ministry dimensions, such as biblically balanced ministry, church renewal and revival, and evangelism and global missions.
- Students will produce a fresh contribution to the practice of expository preaching through a doctoral dissertation or project.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes (Singapore)

- Students will have a deeper understanding of the nature and purpose of expository preaching or of biblical leadership.

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;” i.e., 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 72 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 is the *minimum* number of semester hours required in that category to meet Master of Divinity Equivalency. Thus, 51 of the 72 required semester hours are specified. The remaining 21 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 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. If a student moves from one church or ministry to another during the time he or she is enrolled in seminars, the student must submit a new ministry endorsement letter within six months of beginning the different ministry.
- Three evaluative references. Applicants are responsible for 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Application Fee</td>
<td>$50</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tuition per semester hour</td>
<td>$405</td>
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<tr>
<td>Graduation Fee</td>
<td>$25</td>
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Payment is expected in full upon enrollment unless the student participates in a FACTS monthly electronic draft from checking or savings account.

Curriculum Requirements

Required Seminars: Expository Preaching Track (Stephen Olford Center and Singapore)

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

Required Seminars: Leadership Track (Singapore)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Seminar</th>
<th>Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DMIN 612, Leadership in a Congregational Church</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMIN 618, Leadership through Preaching</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMIN 620, Ministry Research Seminar</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DMIN 624, Missions, Evangelism, and Ministry</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Program Hours: 6-12 hours

Transfer of Credit
Up to six hours (two seminars) may be considered for transfer of doctoral level credit from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning, provided the grades are B or higher. Applicants must request this in writing from the Program Director, who advises the student in writing at the time of the official acceptance of the program.

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.

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 STM 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.
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 STM faculty, a committee appointed annually by the Dean of the School of Theology and Missions. 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. If a student moves from one church or ministry to another after the student has achieved candidacy status, but before graduation, the student must take at least a one-semester leave of absence from the program in order to develop a new proposal. This new proposal must be submitted to the DMin Committee for approval. In addition, the student must submit a new ministry endorsement letter within six months of beginning the different ministry.
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 Theology and Missions 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 that one week before graduation. Course Descriptions: Doctor of Ministry (DMIN)

Graduation Requirements

- Complete required semester hours for the degree with a cumulative GPA of 3.0.
- Complete all required seminars for the track in which the student is enrolled (expository preaching or leadership).
- Complete and successfully defend the dissertation as defined in “Doctoral Processes.”
- File the Application for Graduation with the Doctor of Ministry Office. The deadline is March 1 for candidates who plan to complete requirements by the May Commencement and October 1 for candidates who plan to complete requirements by the December Commencement.
- Pay in full the student’s account in the Business Office.
- Discharge all other obligations (fines, dissertation processing fees, etc.) at the University.
- The approval of the faculty.

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.

612. Leadership in a Congregational Church (3) Fall
A seminar on leading a local church in the areas of church staff and ministerial relationships.

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.
618. Leadership Through Preaching (3) Fall
This seminar is an in-depth examination of Old Testament and New Testament genres and how understanding these genres should aid preachers to develop sermons. The course will expose students to both hermeneutics and homiletics.

620. Ministry Research Seminar (3) Winter
Prerequisite: DMIN 610.
An introduction to methods of research necessary for completion of the DMinEP dissertation or project.

624. Missions, Evangelism, and Ministry (3) Spring
An in-depth examination of the mission of the church emphasizing evangelism and ministry.

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.

629. Strategic Planning (3) Spring
A workshop on the strategic planning process in the context of ministry with a biblical and theological critique.

630. Expository Preaching and New Testament Texts (3) Summer
Prerequisites: DMIN 610 and 615.

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.

636. Spiritual Formation of the Minister (3) Fall
An in-depth examination of the relationship between personal spiritual development and pastoral ministry.

639. Spiritual Formation of the Congregation (3)
An in-depth examination of the spiritual development of a congregation in the areas of ethics, crises, and conflicts.

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 Program Director.
The writing of an original dissertation that contributes significantly to the praxis of expository preaching or ministry leadership.

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 Elective Seminar (3)
Group seminars which do not appear in the School course offerings.