

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

The Catholic University of America

INTRODUCTION:

The Doctor of Ministry is a professional doctorate offering students advanced theological and pastoral formation for competent and effective pastoral ministry. Candidates choose from one of four concentrations: Evangelization, Liturgical Catechesis, Seminary Formation, or Spirituality.

The D.Min. degree program runs once a year for fifteen weeks, between April 1 and July 15, for three consecutive years. It uses a blended learning model, thirteen weeks online and two weeks in residence on campus. The residency usually take place around the first two weeks of June and is a mandatory element of the program. Students normally take three courses each year during each fifteen-week cycle.

Discussion between the inquirer and the director of the concentration area of interest is **highly recommended** before submitting an application to discuss the inquirer's goals and objectives for being in a doctoral program and interests regarding the concentration area.

Deadline for applications is December 1 for courses that begin the following April. It is highly recommended that the application process begin no later than September of the year preceding the first year of anticipated studies.

PRE-REQUISITES:

1. Possession of a Master of Divinity degree or its educational equivalent (i.e., approximately 72 graduate level credits in theology and its related fields) with a minimum cumulative G.P.A. of 3.0.
2. A minimum of three years of full-time service in pastoral ministry or its equivalent (e.g., 6 years of half-time ministry, etc.).
3. Women and men religious, priests, deacons and seminarians must submit a letter of endorsement from their bishop or ecclesiastical superior.
4. A completed and signed application form.
5. Completion of a 1000-2000 word statement of purpose briefly presenting a history of the applicant's academic, pastoral and vocational background, his/her purpose for undertaking doctoral studies in pastoral ministry and his/her ministerial goals as they related to the intended concentration area.
6. Official transcripts from every post-secondary school in approved, sealed envelopes.
7. Three letters of recommendation, one of which testifies to the applicant's personal aptitude for, as well as interest in and motivation for, the field of theology and pastoral studies. The other two letters must specifically attest to the applicant's ability to complete doctoral studies.
8. Nonrefundable application fee.
9. Submission of a graduate level writing sample (e.g., term paper, thesis, etc.).
10. GRE's are not required.
11. There are no foreign language requirements although international students from non-English-speaking countries must have a minimum score of 92 (internet based) on the TOEFL or an overall band score of 6.5 or higher on the IELTS for the English language

THE COURSEWORK PROGRAM:

1. Ten courses are taken over a three-year period.
2. Three courses are taken each year during the Spring/Summer semester.
3. A two-week residency takes place each summer.
4. One course is taken during the fall semester after the second year of courses (completely online).
5. Two semesters of Treatise Guidance are required after the proposal is formally approved.
6. Students are expected to maintain a 3.0 or higher grade point average.
7. The program does not require comprehensive examinations.
8. Up to six graduate-level credits may be transferred from another accredited academic institution with permission of the Area Director or Associate Dean for Seminary and Ministerial Studies.

CANDIDACY:

- A student may apply for candidacy after completing 21 credit hours of coursework.
- Candidacy must be attained before a project proposal may be submitted for approval.
- The D.Min. project, with its treatise and oral presentation, concludes the program. The project and treatise are to demonstrate the student's ability to identify a problem in ministry and to research appropriate interdisciplinary resources and theologically and pastorally relevant methods for its resolution.

PROJECT IN MINISTRY: PROJECT, TREATISE, AND ORAL PRESENTATION

THE PROJECT:

1. The D.Min. project is to be an **original** contribution to pastoral ministry focused on a topic in the student's concentration. The topic is identified during the first year of coursework. The project proposal is developed during the second year of coursework.

THE TREATISE:

1. The treatise is to be comprised of a chapter on the theological foundation for the project, followed by chapters on the design, implementation, and evaluation of the project. The appendix must contain all components of the project (PowerPoint presentations, presentation outline, handouts, announcements, etc.).

ORAL PRESENTATION:

1. When the Treatise is in its approved final draft form, the Candidate schedules the Oral Presentation.
2. During the Presentation, the Candidate makes a 20-minute presentation on the Project using PowerPoint.
3. The Oral Presentation Committee, consisting of the Project Director, Reader, and Dean's Delegate, are given 40 minutes to ask questions or discuss the project with the Candidate.