

# Ministry

## Degree Type

Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

## Admission Requirements

### Procedures for Admission to the Doctor of Ministry Program

#### College of Arts and Sciences

*Note: Not all Online Program offerings are available to residents of all U.S. states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.*

### Procedures for Admission to the Doctor of Ministry Program

The criteria used in determining admission to the doctoral program include:

- An earned undergraduate degree from an accepted accredited institution with a CGPA of 2.7 or better on a 4.0 scale OR
- An earned undergraduate degree from an accepted accredited institution with a CGPA of 2.7 or better on a 4.0 scale during the applicant's last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours earned on the bachelor's degree and/or subsequent graduate work OR
- An earned graduate degree from an accepted accredited institution with a CGPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.
- Interview with the Program Director or Chair.
- Submission of official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended, with submission due within 5 weeks\* of the class start date.
- Applicants for whom English is a Second Language (ESL) must submit a minimum paper-based TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of 550 or the electronic-based score of 79-80 to be considered for the program.
- Completion of an application for admission.
- Applicants who are not citizens of the United States should refer to the section in the South University catalog entitled International Student Admissions Policy.

*\*Effective August 14, 2023 – Students beginning classes at Online Programs will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*

### Exceptions to the Minimum GPA

Applications with CGPA lower than the stated program minimum (2.7 for the bachelor's degree and 3.0 for a graduate degree/coursework) may be considered for admission on the basis of evidence of academic and professional potential demonstrated by career and/or personal accomplishments indicated in a personal statement of academic and professional goals, a career resume or curriculum vita, and two letters of academic and/or professional recommendation. The Program Director/Chair in consultation with the Dean of the College or designee must approve exceptions.

Students admitted on an exception basis will be admitted as regular students on provisional status for the first quarter of enrollment. In order to remain enrolled after completion of the first quarter the student must achieve a CGPA of at least 3.0.

For additional admissions information please see the admissions section [here](#).

## Program Overview and Outcomes

*Offered at Montgomery, Richmond and Online Programs.*

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The Doctor of Ministry degree at South University is a 96 credit hour program and is designed to be the first-professional degree to prepare ministry practitioners to seek or advance in vocational or bi-vocational ministry. The program can help to develop a student's understanding of the nature and purpose of ministry, enhance the student's competencies in ministry skills, and promote the student's growth in spiritual maturity.

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree program at South University is designed to equip ministry practitioners to provide ministry leadership and spiritual care in the following roles:

- Pastors, ministry staff, and lay ministers in local churches/parishes
- Program staff leaders in parachurch organizations
- Chaplains and spiritual care coordinators in a variety of institutional settings
- Program staff leaders in non-profit service agencies, community development, advocacy and justice ministries
- Social entrepreneurs pursuing business as mission, and commercial and industrial chaplaincy

## Program Student Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to:

1. Articulate a biblically informed and theologically reasoned understanding of the helping relationship that is consistent with the student's faith tradition and the needs of the student's chosen ministry setting.
2. Explain the nature of the practice of ministry and exhibit a commitment to its ethical and professional expectations appropriate to the context.
3. Display knowledge of the nature and causes of interpersonal conflict and strategies to resolve disputes and achieve resolution and reconciliation among parties in ministry settings.
4. Formulate an awareness of the diversity found in ministry, and an ability to work effectively with differences of religious beliefs (or none), denominational differences, racial and ethnic differences, generational differences and gender differences.
5. Acquire the specific skills required for competent practice of ministry in a variety of settings.
6. Engage complex issues and problems of ministry settings and demonstrate the capacity to design and implement strategies to successfully overcome and/or resolve them.

The Standard Track of the D.Min. program is designed for students seeking to prepare for vocational or bi-vocational ministry. Foundational courses provide an introduction and overview to the various disciplines required for effective ministry leadership. Ministry skills courses, advanced ministry studies courses, and the final project further integrate biblical and theological perspectives into the practice of ministry. Students can have the opportunity to gain lifelong learning skills that will enable them to continue their personal, intellectual and professional growth.

The Advanced Track of the D.Min. program is designed for students who have completed a graduate degree or a significant amount of coursework in biblical, theological, and ministry studies, and who are currently engaged in vocational ministry. Students in the Advanced Ministry Study can further develop their understanding of the nature and purpose of ministry, enhance their ministry skills, and continue their growth in spiritual maturity.

## Doctor of Ministry Standard Track: 96 Credits

### Orientation: 8 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MIN7000	Learning Skills for Ministry	4.0
MIN7001	Academic Writing	4.0

### Foundation: 28 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MIN7010	Biblical Interpretation	4.0
MIN7011	Old Testament Context and Theology	4.0
MIN7012	New Testament Context and Theology	4.0
MIN7020	Theology Survey	4.0
MIN7040	World Religions	4.0
MIN7050	Christian Spiritual Formation	4.0
MIN7060	Diversity in Ministry	4.0

### Ministry Skills: 28 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MIN7051	Community and Discipleship	4.0
MIN7061	Leadership and Management in Ministry	4.0
MIN7062	Communication Skills for Ministry	4.0
MIN7063	Conflict Mediation and Reconciliation	4.0
MIN7080	Introduction to Pastoral Counseling	4.0

Choose one of the following sequences:

Course Code	Title	Credits
	<b>MIN7590 and MIN7690</b>	<b>8</b>
MIN7590	Ministry Practicum I	4.0
MIN7690	Ministry Practicum II	4.0
	<b>MIN7591 and MIN7691</b>	<b>8</b>
MIN7591	Clinical Pastoral Education, Level 1A	4.0
MIN7691	Clinical Pastoral Education, Level 1B	4.0
	<b>MIN7592 and MIN7692</b>	<b>8</b>
MIN7592	Clinical Pastoral Education, Level 2A	4.0
MIN7692	Clinical Pastoral Education, Level 2B	4.0

## Advanced Ministry Study: 20 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MIN7560	Person and Practice of Ministry	4.0

Choose four additional courses from the following:

Course Code	Title	Credits
MIN7110	Biblical and Theological Perspectives on Health and Wholeness	4.0
MIN7160	Ministry in the Local Church	4.0
MIN7161	Ministry in Institutional Settings	4.0
MIN7181	Lifespan Development	4.0
MIN7561	Theology, Death and Dying	4.0
MIN7562	Homiletics	4.0
MIN7563	Ministry with Disabled Persons	4.0
MIN7565	Principles and Practice of Worship	4.0
MIN7580	Ministry with Families	4.0

## Final Project 12 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MIN7500	Theology and Research in Ministry	4.0

Choose one of the following sequences:

Course Code	Title	Credits
<b>Dissertation (8 credits)</b>		<b>8</b>
MIN8000	Dissertation I	4.0
MIN8100	Dissertation I Extension A	0
MIN8200	Dissertation I Extension B	0
MIN8300	Dissertation I Extension C	0
MIN8010	Dissertation II	4.0
MIN8110	Dissertation II Extension A	0
MIN8210	Dissertation II Extension B	0
MIN8310	Dissertation II Extension C	0
<b>Ministry Project (8 credits)</b>		<b>8</b>
MIN8001	Ministry Project I	4.0
MIN8101	Ministry Project I Extension A	0
MIN8201	Ministry Project I Extension B	0
MIN8301	Ministry Project I Extension C	0
MIN8011	Ministry Project II	4.0
MIN8111	Ministry Project II Extension A	0
MIN8211	Ministry Project II Extension B	0
MIN8311	Ministry Project II Extension C	0
<b>Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education (8 credits)</b>		<b>8</b>
MIN8002	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education I	4.0
MIN8102	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education I Extension A	0
MIN8202	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education I Extension B	0
MIN8302	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education I Extension C	0
MIN8012	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education II	4.0
MIN8112	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education II Extension A	0
MIN8212	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education II Extension B	0
MIN8312	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education II Extension C	0

## Doctor of Ministry Advanced Track: 96 Credits

*Advanced standing credit is determined based on student's previous college work providing 56 credit hours of transfer credit.*

Advanced Standing Credit: 56 Credits

Orientation: 8 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MIN7000	Learning Skills for Ministry	4.0
MIN7001	Academic Writing	4.0

## Foundation: 4 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MIN7060	Diversity in Ministry	4.0

## Ministry Skills: 4 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MIN7063	Conflict Mediation and Reconciliation	4.0

## Advanced Ministry Study: 12 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MIN7560	Person and Practice of Ministry	4.0

### Electives

Choose two electives from the following:

Course Code	Title	Credits
MIN7110	Biblical and Theological Perspectives on Health and Wholeness	4.0
MIN7160	Ministry in the Local Church	4.0
MIN7161	Ministry in Institutional Settings	4.0
MIN7181	Lifespan Development	4.0
MIN7561	Theology, Death and Dying	4.0
MIN7563	Ministry with Disabled Persons	4.0

## Final Project: 12 Credits

Course Code	Title	Credits
MIN7500	Theology and Research in Ministry	4.0

Choose one of the following sequences:

Course Code	Title	Credits
<b>Dissertation (8 credits)</b>		<b>8</b>
MIN8000	Dissertation I	4.0
MIN8100	Dissertation I Extension A	0
MIN8200	Dissertation I Extension B	0
MIN8300	Dissertation I Extension C	0
MIN8010	Dissertation II	4.0
MIN8110	Dissertation II Extension A	0
MIN8210	Dissertation II Extension B	0
MIN8310	Dissertation II Extension C	0
<b>Ministry Project (8 credits)</b>		<b>8</b>
MIN8001	Ministry Project I	4.0
MIN8101	Ministry Project I Extension A	0
MIN8201	Ministry Project I Extension B	0
MIN8301	Ministry Project I Extension C	0
MIN8011	Ministry Project II	4.0
MIN8111	Ministry Project II Extension A	0
MIN8211	Ministry Project II Extension B	0
MIN8311	Ministry Project II Extension C	0
<b>Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education (8 credits)</b>		<b>8</b>
MIN8002	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education I	4.0
MIN8102	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education I Extension A	0
MIN8202	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education I Extension B	0
MIN8302	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education I Extension C	0
MIN8012	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education II	4.0
MIN8112	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education II Extension A	0
MIN8212	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education II Extension B	0
MIN8312	Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education II Extension C	0
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>96</b>

\*Supervisory Clinical Pastoral Education: Opportunities to pursue Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) are a unique feature of the D.Min. program. CPE Level I or Level II fulfills the ministry practicum requirement; students who have completed CPE Level II (4 credit hours) may elect to use Supervisory CPE for their final project if they have been accepted into a supervisory clinical pastoral education program.