

MINISTRY (D.MIN.)

Admissions

Admission to the D.Min. program requires the possession of a Master of Divinity degree or its educational equivalent. Equivalency is assessed in terms of a master's degree in theology or a ministry-related field and significant related experience that enables the applicant to engage as a ministry peer with other students in our professional doctoral program. In order to adequately interpret scripture and the theological tradition in a ministry setting, applicants ordinarily possess a minimum of six hours of graduate studies in the following areas: scripture (with courses in both the Old and New Testaments), doctrinal or systematic theology, and ethics or moral theology (including social justice studies). Given the cultural contextuality of contemporary ministry, applicants ordinarily possess six to 12 graduate credits in the area of pastoral studies or ministry (including practical theology or religious education). Students who do not meet the minimum graduate credits in the above-mentioned areas can take these courses with GSE or another accredited graduate theological school. These credits, however, will not count toward the completion of the D.Min.

GSE has developed the following template for determining whether the applicant who does not have an accredited M.Div. degree meets the minimum for equivalency, which is based on the work of lay ministers who do not perform certain liturgical and sacramental roles. Normally, an applicant will need a total of 52 credits in ministry-related graduate courses and significant ministerial experience in settings such as in a parish ministry, hospital chaplaincy, religious school, campus ministry, etc. Applicants seeking equivalency are also encouraged to submit CPE units and substantial noncredit training programs related to the positions they have held.

To be admitted to the program, applicants should normally have had three years of full-time or equivalent experience in ministry after their first theological degree. They should also manifest the capacity for an advanced level of competence in and reflection on religious ministry.

Admission of candidates to the Doctor of Ministry is determined by the Doctor of Ministry committee, which comprises the director and D.Min. faculty members. Admission to the Doctor of Ministry is selective and offered only to those students who have demonstrated the requisite intellectual ability, academic and ministerial preparation, and motivation.

Those applying for admission are expected to have a B+ or better average in their master's program. They must supply a copy of their college, seminary, and graduate school transcripts, as well as three letters of recommendation, two from professors with whom they have studied and one from a ministerial supervisor. Applicants must also submit a statement of purpose that answers each of the questions listed, along with a writing sample, typically a research paper from an earlier degree program.

Each student accepted into the program is assigned an advisor who guides the student in academic matters. Students are expected to maintain a B+ grade point average during the entire period of their doctoral studies. Mentors and readers for doctoral theses/projects are decided upon by students in consultation with prospective mentors and readers. The mentor must be chosen from the Doctor of Ministry faculty. Reader(s) may be chosen from within or outside of the Doctor of Ministry faculty.