

Doctor of Ministry, Minor in Leadership

HBI University

Course Duration: 3 Years

Total Credit Hours: 105

Program Description

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) at HBI University is a professional doctorate designed for experienced ministry practitioners seeking to enhance their leadership, preaching, spiritual formation, and organizational strategy within church and faith-based settings. The program emphasizes applied theology, pastoral innovation, and strategic leadership.

The D.Min. offers a research-driven yet practical curriculum that blends biblical wisdom, theological depth, and effective leadership models. Students deepen their spiritual lives while gaining new tools for managing church growth, change leadership, and effective ministry systems.

The Minor in Leadership focuses on cultivating visionary leaders who can lead with wisdom, integrity, and cultural relevance. This includes courses in organizational development, team dynamics, servant leadership, and transformational ministry practices. Students will graduate equipped to lead congregations, nonprofits, and global ministry movements.

Admissions Requirements

- Master of Divinity (M.Div.) or equivalent theological degree
- GPA of 3.5 or higher in graduate theological education
- At least 3 years of full-time ministry or pastoral leadership experience
- Statement of Purpose (1,000–1,500 words) articulating ministry philosophy and goals
- Three letters of recommendation (academic, pastoral, and professional)
- Résumé or CV outlining leadership roles and pastoral experience
- Interview with Doctor of Ministry program faculty

Practicum Experience

The Doctor of Ministry practicum allows students to design and implement a ministry initiative that addresses a current need in their context. This may include leadership development, strategic planning, or pastoral care innovations.

Practicum Requirements:

- 600 hours of applied ministry work aligned with the doctoral project
- Leadership journal documenting implementation and lessons
- Final presentation and theological reflection on leadership initiative

Doctoral Thesis

The Doctor of Ministry dissertation, often referred to as a ministry project, combines theological reflection with applied leadership strategies. Students identify a ministry challenge, propose a solution, and implement it in a real-world setting.

Thesis Requirements:

- Ministry project proposal approved by faculty
- Research in theology, leadership, and ministry best practices
- Dissertation of at least 100 pages with theological analysis and outcomes
- Defense and presentation of results before faculty and ministry leaders

Program Outcomes

Graduates will:

- Lead churches and ministries with strategic and theological depth
- Develop discipleship, leadership, and outreach models
- Guide congregations through change with spiritual sensitivity
- Mentor emerging leaders and multiply ministry impact
- Design culturally relevant ministry systems and structures

Core Foundational Courses (60 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
DMN 801	Biblical Models for Church Leadership	3
DMN 802	Theology of Ministry and Mission	3
DMN 803	Church Health and Renewal	3
DMN 804	Preaching for Spiritual Transformation	3
DMN 805	Strategic Planning in Ministry	3
DMN 806	Pastoral Ethics and Integrity	3
DMN 807	Cultural Engagement and Ministry	3
DMN 808	The Church and Social Justice	3
DMN 809	Pastoral Counseling and Emotional Health	3
DMN 810	Spiritual Leadership and Discipleship	3
DMN 811	Change Management in Churches	3
DMN 812	Conflict Resolution in Ministry	3
DMN 813	Faith and Organizational Growth	3

DMN 814	Sacramental Theology in Practice	3
DMN 815	Ministry in the Digital Age	3
DMN 816	Church Administration and Governance	3
DMN 817	Mentoring and Leadership Reproduction	3
DMN 818	Spiritual Formation and Soul Care	3
DMN 819	Capstone in Ministry Leadership	3
DMN 820	Practicum in Ministry Strategy	3

Minor in Leadership (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
LEA 801	Visionary Leadership and Strategic Thinking	3
LEA 802	Servant Leadership and Team Empowerment	3
LEA 803	Leadership Communication and Influence	3
LEA 804	Organizational Change and Innovation	3
LEA 805	Crisis Leadership in Ministry Settings	3

Specialized Electives (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
ELE 801	Global Church Leadership Models	3
ELE 802	Spiritual Gifts and Church Empowerment	3
ELE 803	Faith-Based Entrepreneurship	3
ELE 804	Leadership in Intercultural Ministry	3
ELE 805	Ministry Coaching and Assessment	3

Research, Dissertation, and Defense (15 Credit Hours)

Course Code	Course Name	Credit Hours
DISS 901	Ministry Project Design and Proposal	3
DISS 902	Action Research and Data Gathering	3
DISS 903	Theological Integration and Reflection	3

DISS 904	Project Implementation and Evaluation	3
DISS 905	Defense and Ministry Resource Production	3

Career Outcomes and Potential Pay Scale

Career Path	Average Salary (Annual)
Lead Pastor or Senior Minister	\$85,000 – \$140,000
Executive Director of Ministry Organization	\$90,000 – \$145,000
Church Consultant and Trainer	\$80,000 – \$130,000
Professor of Practical Theology	\$95,000 – \$150,000
Leadership Development Coach	\$85,000 – \$135,000

Dissertation Outline

1. Introduction

- Identification of a ministry need or challenge

2. Literature Review

- Biblical, theological, and leadership theory foundations

3. Methodology

- Action research model or case study approach

4. Implementation

- Description of applied project or initiative

5. Results and Evaluation

- Outcomes, insights, and improvements

6. Theological Reflection and Conclusion

- Spiritual and strategic learnings for future practice

7. References and Appendices