

---

## 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.

-

## 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 at 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 signing the waiver on each form and providing each



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 on the dissertation proposal.

625. Sermon Content and Delivery (3) W

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

---