SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS

Degrees Offered
Available Online and on the Jackson, Germantown, Hendersonville Campuses

• Master of Christian Studies

Available on the Germantown Campus and in partnership with the Baptist Theological Seminary, Singapore

• Doctor of Ministry with an Emphasis in Expository Preaching

Mission Statement
The School of Christian Studies exists to advance the Kingdom of God through theological education by integrating rigorous academics, deep devotion to Christ and His Church, skill in teaching, and attention to students as individuals.
MASTER OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS

Purpose Statement
The Master of Christian Studies exists to raise the level of ministry competence among bi-vocational pastors, missionaries, church planters, foreign nationals planting ethnic churches in the U.S., church staff members, and laypersons seeking a more thorough blending of faith and life in the workplace through on-site offerings in Jackson, Hendersonville (Nashville area), and Memphis, as well as through online offerings.

Program Emphases
MCS courses are foundational, in terms of the student’s ability to think biblically and theologically, and synergistic, fostering effective ministry. MCS students become biblically and theologically grounded, while developing ministry skills that integrate faith and learning.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes
- Students will acquire competence in (and deepen their analytical skills as they reflect on) the biblical text, theology, and Christian history, as well as how these apply to the ministries of churches.
- Students will acquire skill in Bible study methods, Christian ethics, and leadership principles.
- Students will integrate what they learn in classes with the ministry they complete in their church or ministry setting.
- Students will be more motivated to participate in and lead their churches in advancing the kingdom of God.
- Students will demonstrate commitment to apply Scripture to their personal lives and ministries.

Required Courses Include:
- Old Testament I: Promise, Covenant, and Praise .. 3 hrs.
- Old Testament II: Wisdom, Justice, and God’s Rule ... 3 hrs.
- Bible Study for Preaching and Teaching ............ 3 hrs.
- Theology I: God, Revelation and Humanity ....... 3 hrs.
- Theology II: Christ, the Spirit, and Last Things ... 3 hrs.
- Church History I: Early and Medieval Christianity 3 hrs.
- Church History II: Reformation and Modern Christianity .................................................. 3 hrs.
- Introduction to Christian Ethics ...................... 3 hrs.
- Christian Leadership ..................................... 3 hrs.
- Total: ....................................................... 33 hrs.

Academic Calendars and Schedules
Calendars and Schedule of Course offerings for the M.C.S. program follow those for non-cohort programs. For additional information see http://www.uu.edu/academics/graduate/mcs/

Admission Requirements
1. A Baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution as documented on official transcripts, which must include all postsecondary academic work.
2. A minimum college cumulative grade point average of 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale). Applicants with a college cumulative grade point average below 2.4 (on a 4.0 scale) are accepted on academic probation on an individual basis.
3. Complete Union M.C.S. Application Form and $25 application fee.
4. Three personal letters of recommendation.
5. An Autobiographical Essay of 3-5 pages, describing the applicant’s spiritual pilgrimage.
6. If English is not a student’s first language, minimum scores of 560 or 220 computer must be achieved on the TOEFL.

Transfer of Credit
Up to nine semester hours of graduate credit from a regionally accredited college or university may be transferred into the degree program at the time the student is admitted provided the grades earned were B or higher.

Financial Information
Application Fee: .................................................. $25
General Student Fee: ...................................... $20/hour
Tuition per Semester Hour: ............................ $315
Payment is expected in full upon enrollment unless the student participates in a FACTS monthly electronic draft from checking or savings account. All financial information is subject to change without notice.

Financial Assistance
The M.C.S. does not qualify for Federal Stafford Loans. However, the student may contact the Student Financial Planning Office about private alternative loans.

Graduation Requirements
A. The completion of 33 hours of course work with a GPA of 3.0 or higher
B. The fulfillment of all financial obligations
C. The approval of the faculty
Course Descriptions: Master of Christian Studies (MCS)

500. Old Testament I: Promise, Covenant, and Praise (3)
An investigation of the theological implications of God's promises that were given to his covenant people, as well as the people's response to God in praise and lament. This course will analyze these themes through the study of the history, background, literary genre, structure, and theology of Genesis through Psalms. Exegetical methodologies for analyzing narrative and poetic texts will be introduced.

505. Old Testament II: Wisdom, Justice, and God's Rule (3)
An investigation of how practical principles of divine wisdom impact human behavior and doubting, how God's plan to create a world of justice and trust impacted Israelite and world history, and how God's sovereign power will one day triumph and usher in the messianic kingdom. This course will introduce a method of analyzing the prophet's messages in order to perceive how they attempted to transform the worldview of their audiences by persuading them to change their thinking and behavior.


A survey of the Pauline epistles, the general epistles and Revelation, with more intensive study of selected texts and issues. Included is a survey of basic issues in Pauline theology, issues in interpreting New Testament letters and the hermeneutics of the book of Revelation.

520. Bible Study for Preaching and Teaching (3)
An exploration of the methods, tools, and practices associated with the interpretation and application of the Bible. Students will exegete selected biblical passages, moving from the ancient text to the modern world.

530. Church History I: Early and Medieval Christianity (3)
A survey of the history of Christianity from the late first century through the fifteenth century, focusing on the development of pivotal doctrines and ecclesiastical institutions in the Patristic and Medieval periods.

531. Church History II: Reformation and Modern Christianity (3)
A survey of the history of Christianity from the early sixteenth century to the early twenty-first century, focusing on the development of pivotal doctrines and ecclesiastical institutions in the Reformation and Modern periods.

537. Introduction to Christian Ethics (3)
An introduction to Christian ethics that focuses on ethical methodology and application of Christian ethical principles to key issues in church and society.

538. Christian Leadership (3)
The course focuses on how biblical values affect models of organizational leadership within the local church and other Christian institutions.

545. Theology I: God, Revelation, and Humanity (3)
A study of the nature, method, and content of Christian theology, the course will focus on prolegomena, God and revelation, and the doctrine of humanity.

546. Theology II: Christ, the Spirit, and Last Things (3)
A study of nature, method, and content of Christian theology, the course will focus on the person and work of Christ, Holy Spirit, Salvation, Church and Last Things.

Ministry Track Courses (Optional)

Students completing all 33 hours required for the MCS and the 9 hours listed here as optional ministry track courses will also receive the “Certificate of Ministry Leadership.”

535. Communicating Biblical Truth (3)
Communicating Biblical Truth is a study of the basics of sermon development and delivery, as well as the art and craft of teaching biblical truth.

536. Evangelism and Missions (3)
An introduction to the ministry of evangelism and missions that moves from its biblical basis and theological foundations to a study of contemporary strategies, methodologies, movements, and trends with a focus on their practical application.

539. The Ministry of Biblical Counsel (3)
An introduction to the underlying principles and methods involved in offering biblical counseling in today's church and society.
Offered as needed

579. External Domestic Study Programs (1-4)
All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

580. Study Abroad Programs (1-4)
All courses and their application must be defined and approved prior to travel.

585. Special Study (1-4)
Group studies which do not appear in the department course offerings. Course content will be determined by need.

598. Seminar (1-4)
Graduate studies seminar to be used at the discretion of the department.

655. Independent Study (1-4)
Individual research and study under the guidance of a graduate faculty member.

Please note: The MCS curriculum was revised for students beginning with August 2012 enrollment. Students enrolled before August 2012 should consult their catalogue of record (the catalogue from the year they were enrolled) to find the curriculum requirements applicable to their MCS degree.
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY AND MISSIONS

Purpose Statement
The Doctor of Ministry with an emphasis in expository preaching, offered on the Germantown campus and in Singapore, is designed to enhance the art and practice of expository preaching.

Program Emphases
The first emphasis of the Doctor of Ministry is advanced-level professional preparation in expository preaching. The second emphasis is equipping students to research and develop appropriate new insights and expertise into their current ministry field through their doctoral dissertation. The D.Min. program seeks to advance God’s kingdom in churches around the world by preparing pastors and other ministry leaders with the highest professional skill in expository preaching.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes (Germantown)
- Students will have a deeper understanding of the nature and purpose of expository preaching.
- Students will gain advanced competency in the preparation and delivery of expository sermons.
- Students will demonstrate professional growth in related ministry dimensions, such as biblically balanced ministry, church renewal and revival, and evangelism and global missions.
- Students will produce a fresh contribution to the practice of expository preaching through a doctoral dissertation or project.

Expected Student Learning Outcomes (Singapore)
- Students will have a deeper understanding of the nature and purpose of expository preaching.

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.
- A Master of Divinity or its equivalent from a regionally accredited seminary. See below for information regarding the “Academic Foundation,” i.e., the “Master of Divinity Equivalency.”
- A grade point average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale throughout all master’s-level studies.
- Three full years of vocational Christian ministry after completion of master’s study.

Prospective students are requested to contact the Doctor of Ministry Office if they have questions about whether they have established an adequate foundation the Doctor of Ministry study as indicated above. International applicants are welcome, but must contact the Doctor of Ministry Office for additional admission requirements.

Calendar (Germantown)
The Doctor of Ministry is delivered in two semesters per year. All seminars are delivered on site in Germantown. Seminars will require pre-seminar assignments. The student begins the program with the Summer/Fall Semester by enrolling in the July Seminar(s). Seminar 1 will meet Monday through Friday of the second week, beginning the second Monday following July 5, and Seminar 2 will meet Monday through Friday of the third week, beginning the third Monday following July 5. The Winter/Spring Semester offerings include Seminar 1 Monday through Friday, beginning the second Monday after January 2, and Seminar 2 Monday through Friday, beginning the third Monday after January 2. Post-seminar assignments are to be completed and courses graded by the end of the semester in December and May respectively. Faculty will announce deadlines for post-seminar assignments in course syllabi to meet the published semester grading period.

Calendar (Singapore)
The Doctor of Ministry is delivered in two semesters per year. Courses are offered in January and Summer/Fall as directed by the Baptist Theological Seminary, Singapore. Post-seminar assignments are to be completed and courses graded by the end of the semester in December and May. Faculty will announce deadlines for post-seminar assignments in course syllabi to meet the published semester grading period.
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 at least 6 church history hours in order to meet 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 in 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 reference an envelope and postage for returning the reference directly to the Doctor of Ministry Office.
- A personal history essay describing significant influences in life, particularly conversion and spiritual growth, call to ministry, important ministry experiences, and current understanding and practice of preaching. This essay should be 8-10 pages, double spaced, using 12-point font and one-inch margins.
- A sermon manuscript that demonstrates exegesis of a biblical text. It is to be a complete manuscript that includes every word that would be used in sermon delivery, including introduction, illustrations, and call for response. The manuscript should be appropriate for a sermon lasting twenty to thirty minutes. This manuscript should double spaced, using 12-point font and one-inch margins.
- A research paper that demonstrates the prospective student’s ability to research, organize, and write on a topic from one of the content areas of the Master of Divinity. This paper may be based on or developed from a paper previously written at the graduate level. This is to be a complete paper, with 10-15 pages of body (not counting title page and bibliography page), using standard footnotes, and significant bibliography of at least twelve resources. The manuscript should be double spaced, using 12-point font and one-inch margins.
**Application Deadlines**

Applicants must complete all elements of their application file and be officially accepted into the program before they can enroll in their first seminars. The size of each entering class is limited, and preference is given to students who apply early. The deadline for receiving the application and application fee is **March 1**. The deadline for receiving all other application materials is **May 1**. A personal or telephone interview with the Program Director is scheduled by the Doctor of Ministry Office after all elements of the application file are received. The deadline for the admission interview is **May 15**. Applicants are notified of their admission status not later than **June 1**.

**Transfer of Credit**

Up to six hours (two seminars) may be considered for transfer of doctoral level credit from a regionally accredited institution of higher learning, provided the grades are B or higher. Applicants must request this in writing from the Program Director, who advises the student in writing at the time of the official acceptance of the program.

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**Financial Information**

Application Fee .......................................................... $50  
Tuition per semester hour ........................................ $420  
General Student Fee .................................................. $20/hour  
Dissertation Publication and Binding Fee ..................... $100

Payment is expected in full upon enrollment unless the student participates in a FACTS monthly electronic draft from checking or savings account.

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**Curriculum Requirements**

**Required Seminars**

DMIN 610, Critical Issues in Expository Preaching .................................................................................. 3 hours  
DMIN 615, Spiritual Formation and Expository Preaching ........................................................................ 3 hours  
DMIN 620, Ministry Research Seminar ......................... 3 hours  
DMIN 625, Sermon Content and Delivery .......... 3 hours  
DMIN 630, Expository Preaching and New Testament Texts ................................................................. 3 hours  
DMIN 635, Expository Preaching and Old Testament Texts ....................................................................... 3 hours  
DMIN 640, Expository Preaching and Evangelism .......... 3 hours  
DMIN 785-6-7, Doctoral Elective Seminar .................... 3 hours  
DMIN 785-6-7, Doctoral Elective Seminar .................... 3 hours  
DMIN 800, Project and Dissertation ............................... 6-12 hours  
Total Program Hours ...................................................... 33-39 hours

*A minimum grade point average of 3.0 is required for the course of study.

**Additional Seminars: (Singapore)**

DMIN 612, Leadership in a Congregational Church .................................................................................. 3 hours  
DMIN 620, Ministry Research Seminar ......................... 3 hours  
DMIN 624, Missions, Evangelism, and Ministry .......... 3 hours  
DMIN 629, Strategic Planning ................................................ 3 hours  
DMIN 636, Spiritual Formation of the Minister .......... 3 hours  
DMIN 639, Spiritual Formation of the Congregation ................................................................................. 3 hours

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**Financial Aid**

The Doctor of Ministry does not qualify for Federal Stafford Loans. However, the student may contact the Student Financial Planning Office about private alternative loans.

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**Doctoral Processes**

**Phase 1: Ministry Research Seminar (DMIN 620).**

1. Pre-seminar week: students prepare at least three possible problems/projects that could become the focus of the DMin dissertation/project.

2. During the seminar week: students decide on a project topic, determine the research model/process they will follow and begin developing a bibliography. During this week, the professor will work with each student in helping secure a STM faculty member to serve as dissertation chair. Dissertation chairs will be finalized not later than one month after the end of the seminar week.

3. During the post-seminar period:
   a. Students refine their topic (in conjunction with the professor of the research seminar and with their dissertation chair) and complete a proposal for their dissertation/project.
   b. The dissertation chair recruits the dissertation committee, consisting of two other persons. One of these will be an STM faculty member. The third person may be an STM faculty member, but may also be a UU faculty member from another discipline or may be a qualified non-faculty member, such as a pastor.
   c. The professor of the research seminar has responsibility for assigning the grade for the DMIN 620 seminar.
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 to bring the dissertation to
final form. It is during these two semesters ONLY that the
dissertation chair will get teaching load credit (or financial
consideration) for chairing a dissertation.
3. The student may register for DMIN 800 for up to four
consecutive semesters. No break in registration will be
permitted. (In exceptional circumstances, the student may
appeal to the Dean of the School of Theology and Missions
for a break in this continuous enrollment requirement
or for extension beyond four semesters.) An additional
charge of $100/hour will be assessed beginning with the
third DMIN 800 registration.
4. The dissertation in final form must be submitted to the
dissertation chair not later than Friday of the first week of
the regular semester (fall or spring) at which the student
expects to graduate. The chair will have one month to work
with the student to make any further revisions.
5. A formal dissertation defense before the entire dissertation
committee must occur not later than the beginning of fall
break or spring break of the semester of graduation.
6. Any last-minute revisions must be finalized not later than
one week before graduation. Three final copies of the
dissertation must be submitted not later than one week
before graduation.

Course Descriptions: Doctor of Ministry (DMIN)
610. Critical Issues in Expository Preaching (3) Su
Corequisite: DMIN 615.
An examination of biblical, theological, incarnational,
and practical principles related to the practice of ministry
generally and preaching in particular. Included in this seminar
will be a presentation of the “Covenant of Learning,” which
students must fulfill on a continuing basis in order to remain
in good standing in the program.
612. Leadership in a Congregational Church (3) F
A seminar on leading a local church in the areas of church
staff and ministerial relationships.
615. Spiritual Formation and Expository Preaching (3) Su
Corequisite: DMIN 610.
An examination of the relationship between personal spiritual
development and preaching. Models of spiritual growth will
be discussed, emphasizing how preaching relates to life change
in individuals, congregations, and societies. The relationship
between God’s Word and God’s Spirit in expository preaching
will be explored.
620. Ministry Research Seminar (3) W
Prerequisite: DMIN 610.
An introduction to methods of research necessary for
completion of the DMinEP dissertation or project.
624. Missions, Evangelism, and Ministry (3) S
An in-depth examination of the mission of the church
emphasizing evangelism and ministry.
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 principles related to communication will be explored, as well as contemporary theory and models.

629. Strategic Planning (3) S
A workshop on the strategic planning process in the context of ministry with a biblical and theological critique.

630. Expository Preaching and New Testament Texts (3) Su
Prerequisites: DMIN 610 and 615.

635. Expository Preaching and Old Testament Texts (3) W
Prerequisites: DMIN 610 and 615.
An in-depth study of the genres of literature in the Old Testament, focusing on hermeneutical and homiletical issues related to preparing expository messages from the Old Testament.

636. Spiritual Formation of the Minister (3) F
An in-depth examination of the relationship between personal spiritual development and pastoral ministry.

639. Spiritual Formation of the Congregation (3)
An in-depth examination of the spiritual development of a congregation in the areas of ethics, crises, and conflicts.

640. Expository Preaching and Evangelism (3) W
Prerequisites: DMIN 610 and 615.
A consideration of how preaching engages culture and the world. Focuses on the dynamics of evangelistic preaching and preaching cross-culturally.

800. Project and Dissertation (3 each) W, Su
Prerequisite: Successful completion of all nine DMIN seminars and permission of the Doctor of Ministry Program Director.
The writing of an original dissertation that contributes significantly to the praxis of expository preaching or ministry leadership.

Other Variable Credit and Variable Content Courses

655. Independent Study (1-3)
Individual research and study under the guidance of a Doctor of Ministry in Expository Preaching professor.

679, 779. External Domestic Study Programs (1-4)
All courses and their application to the program must be defined prior to travel.

680, 780. Study Abroad Study Programs (1-4)
All courses and their application to the program must be defined prior to travel.

785, 786, 787. Doctoral Elective Seminar (3)
Group seminars which do not appear in the School course offerings.