

DOCTORAL PROGRAMS

Luther Rice offers three doctoral programs of study: The Doctor of Ministry, the Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership, and the Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Scripture

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) curriculum represents those areas considered essential for effective Christian service in a range of contexts. The Doctor of Ministry degree builds upon and extends the knowledge and ministry preparation acquired by M.Div. graduates. Specialized studies focus attention on advanced competencies within a field of ministry. The entirety of the D.Min. may be earned online.

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Organizational Leadership curriculum represents those areas considered essential for effective leadership within the ministry and the marketplace. The Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership degree builds upon and extends the knowledge and professional preparation acquired by graduate students. The Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership is designed to provide a comprehensive biblically-based curriculum with the purpose of serving both the church and the community for Christian men and women in ministry and the marketplace. The degree program can be completed entirely online or in combination with on-campus classes.

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Christian Scripture is designed to train students in the rigor and skills necessary to become competent scholars in the areas of the Old Testament, New Testament, and Biblical Theology. The program is designed to equip an individual with the highest levels of scholarship and performance in a broad range of contexts including but not limited to pastoral ministry, teaching, research, and writing. The program may be completed 100% online with both asynchronous and synchronous elements.



Doctor of Ministry

The quality and success of the Christian ministry are very often determined by the minister's ability to think critically, biblically, and theologically; to communicate that thinking in oral and written fashion; and to apply that thinking in real-life ministry. The purpose of the Doctor of Ministry program is to provide advanced competencies and biblical insights into the practice of ministry for those actively involved in vocational Christian ministry.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Doctor of Ministry program will be prepared to:

- Articulate and apply a biblical philosophy of ministry.
- Evaluate ministry efforts for biblical veracity and effective ministry outcomes.
- Design and implement effective strategies for ministry settings.
- Communicate researched conclusions with competence and purpose.

Academic Prerequisites

The Doctor of Ministry degree presumes a level of theological knowledge and competence in ministry skills. An applicant should have completed graduate-level studies in Bible, theology, evangelism, homiletics, pastoral ministry, and Christian education. Such an educational background is necessary since the Doctor of Ministry program provides an educational opportunity, in the context of the student's own ministry laboratory, to develop and enhance specific advanced competencies related to the practice of Christian ministry. Applicants who have not earned a Master of Divinity degree but hold a Master of Arts degree in Bible or theology must complete 18 additional credit hours of graduate-level preparatory course work totaling 54 hours in order to be evaluated for academic equivalency. Master's degrees other than those in biblically or theologically related subjects must complete the Master of Arts in Ministry to be considered for academic equivalency. For detailed information, please contact Admissions@LutherRice.edu.

Continuous Enrollment and Time Limits

The doctoral program requires continuous enrollment until all doctoral study is completed and all graduation requirements are fulfilled. Students may complete the program at their own pace, but they must take at least two courses per academic year and must complete all program requirements within the time limits. Failure to meet these guidelines will result in the student being administratively withdrawn from the program.

The Doctor of Ministry program must be completed within five years of the start date. Should extenuating circumstances force a student to suspend his or her studies for a prolonged period of time, the Registrar must be notified in writing of the student's intention to withdraw from the program. Upon withdrawal, the student may be on a leave of absence for a period not to exceed twelve months from the withdrawal date. This leave of absence will not count against the program's time limits. Only one leave of absence is allowed during the course of study. When the student is ready to resume studies, he or she must complete a Readmission Application available from the Admissions Office or accessed online at www.LutherRice.edu. For additional information, see "Readmission Policies" and "Withdrawal from the Institution."

A student desiring to graduate in May of 2026 must adhere to the following dates:

- The Project Proposal must be approved by a faculty committee no later than September 25, 2026.
- The first draft of the Doctoral Ministry Project must be submitted by January 8, 2027 for participation in a projected May 2027 graduation.
- The final draft of the Doctoral ministry Project must be submitted by March 5, 2027 of the graduation year.
- Final approval and defense of the Doctoral Ministry Project by the student's faculty advisor must be achieved no later than April 23, 2027 prior to May 2027 graduation.

Grading Policy

The Doctor of Ministry student must earn a minimum grade of "B" in each course. Failure to achieve a grade of "B" will necessitate repeating the course or taking an approved substitute course. For information on dropping below a 3.0 grade point average, see the section on "Academic Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal."

Lifelong Learning Offer

To encourage the students in lifelong learning, all graduates of the Luther Rice Doctor of Ministry degree are invited to audit future doctoral modules on a space-available basis without incurring tuition or an audit fee. Online courses are not included in this offer.

Curricular Requirements

The Doctor of Ministry program requires the completion of 30 semester-hours of coursework and can be completed 100% online. The curriculum is comprised of a total of ten courses. Four of the courses must be completed in a modular format (on-campus or via video conference), four are completely online, and two are devoted to the Ministry Project (see below) which may be completed online as well. The four, 1-week on-campus modules focus on Research and Writing, Communication, Ministry, and Evangelism. These modules provide helpful dialogue and interaction with credentialed scholars in various fields of Christian service as well as important times of personal reflection and peer review. Each modular course includes one week of in-class instruction and group work followed by fourteen weeks of online instruction and assignments. The remaining courses may be taken completely online. Each doctoral course requires approximately 1,500 pages of reading, and the online portions of courses run concurrent with the regular semester schedules. Online courses are available only when offered, not every semester, so students should be aware of the course schedule and plan accordingly.

Doctoral Ministry Project

The Bible stresses the importance of applying in ministry what has been learned from the Word of God (John 13.17; Jas 1.22). The climax of the Doctor of Ministry program is a "hands-on" implementation of acquired knowledge and skill in a Ministry Project. This supervised project addresses a specific concern in the student's present ministry context. The project must have measurable objectives, be biblically and theologically informed, be transferable to other ministries in similar contexts, and reflect knowledge and skills gained through the Doctor of Ministry studies. The project requirements are divided over two courses:

1. DM 8500 – Doctoral Ministry Proposal Design (3 hours credit). The Ministry Proposal Design course explains in detail the process for creating an acceptable Ministry Project Proposal. The goal for this course is to guide the student in the development of a Ministry Project Proposal that may be approved by a committee of three faculty members. This committee will be chaired by the student's faculty advisor, who will be assigned upon the successful completion of DM 8500. The other two faculty members will serve as readers. After the student's proposal has received official approval, the student may then enroll in DM 9500 and implement the ministry project in his or her place of ministry. **Prerequisite: DM 8000 – Research and Writing for Ministry plus six additional courses/modules.**
2. DM 9500 – Doctoral Ministry Project (3 hours credit). The Doctoral Ministry Project course awards credit to the doctoral candidate who successfully completes and defends the entire Ministry Project. After the candidate's faculty advisor has approved the Ministry Project, and it has been edited/proofread by an approved person, the oral defense may be scheduled in conjunction with the Coordinator of the Doctor of Ministry Program. The date of the oral defense will be at least two weeks after the date of final project's approval. This delay is to allow time for the defense date to be adequately posted. Ideally, the defense will be conducted on-campus, though it can be held via video conference if necessary. Candidates are encouraged to contact their faculty advisor for instructions on how to prepare for the defense. The defense will be conducted with an audience of at least three (3) members of the faculty. **Prerequisite: DM 8500 – Doctoral Ministry Proposal Design.**

Doctor of Ministry students must register for DM 9500 each semester until their final project defense is scheduled. The doctoral student will be required to pay tuition and technology fees each semester until their final project defense is scheduled.

Each semester's registration preceding the defense will receive a grade of "NC." If the student passes his defense, the preceding course grades will change to "R," and the final grade for the defense will be as signed a letter grade of "A" or "B." If the student does not pass his defense, the preceding course grades will remain "NC," and the final grade for the defense will be assigned a letter grade of "C," "D," or "F."

Doctoral Ministry Faculty Advisors

Faculty advisors are a critical part of the development of students at the doctoral level. They provide specific personal guidance throughout the Ministry Project process – from the project implementation and writing to the oral defense and graduation. Students are encouraged to work closely with their faculty advisors throughout the process. Students are assigned a faculty advisor upon the successful completion of DM8500. The faculty advisor's responsibility rests primarily with the Doctoral Ministry Project. Questions or concerns about other aspects of the program, as well as the student's progress through the program, should be directed to the Coordinator of the Doctor of Ministry Program.

Doctor of Ministry
30 hours

Modules (12 hours)

- DM 8000—Research and Writing for Ministry (Offered in August)
- DM 8100—Evangelism in Contemporary Culture (Offered in August)
- DM 8300—Contemporary Preaching (Offered in January)
- DM 9000—Critical Issues in Ministry (Offered in June)

Online Courses (12 hours)

- DM 8200—Issues in Counseling (Offered in the Summer Semester)
- DM 8400—Contemporary Leadership Development (Offered in the Spring Semester)
- DM 9200—Relationships in Ministry (Offered in the Fall Semester)
- DM 9300—Innovative Pastoral Ministry (Offered in the Spring Semester)

Doctoral Ministry Project (6 hours)

- DM 8500—Doctoral Ministry Proposal Design (Offered in the Fall and Spring Semesters)
- DM 9500—Doctoral Ministry Project (Offered Every Semester)



"God's providence directed me to Luther Rice while I was still supporting my family through full-time employment. Immediately I was immersed in their flexible online training with professors who would not compromise in education quality or biblical integrity. Luther Rice is an affordable and unmatched educational conduit of God's unchanging Word."

Lyndon Akins, Master of Divinity Graduate

Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership

The Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership degree program is grounded in Luther Rice College and Seminary's mission statement, which is to serve the church and community by providing biblically based on-campus and distance education to Christian men and women for ministry and the marketplace with an end to granting undergraduate and graduate degrees.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership degree program is designed for Christian men and women to serve both the church and community in ministry and in the marketplace. Graduates of the program will be qualified to serve within the church as pastors and within the marketplace as business executives or corporate strategists. The degree program is biblically based and can be completed 100% online or in combination with on-campus classes.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership will have:

- Demonstrated the ability to develop a philosophy of leadership consistent with a biblical worldview.
- Demonstrated the ability to apply leadership theories, principles, and practices to improve personal and organizational performance.
- Demonstrated the ability to analyze the cause(s) of organizational challenges and develop leadership recommendations to meet these challenges.
- Demonstrated the ability to synthesize and evaluate current theory and apply appropriate methodologies to conduct meaningful research in the field of leadership.

Graduate Degree Prerequisite

The Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership presumes a graduate-level knowledge and competence. An applicant should have completed a Master's degree of thirty (30) credit hours or more. Such an educational background is necessary since the Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership provides an educational opportunity to develop and enhance specific advanced competencies related to organizational leadership within ministry and the marketplace.

Continuous Enrollment and Time Limits

The doctoral program requires continuous enrollment until all doctoral study is completed and all graduation requirements are fulfilled. Students may complete the program at their own pace, but they must take at least two courses per academic year and must complete all program requirements within the time limits. Failure to meet these guidelines will result in the student being administratively withdrawn from the program.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership must be completed within eight years of the start date. Should extenuating circumstances force a student to suspend his or her studies for a prolonged period of time, the Registrar must be notified in writing of the student's intention to withdraw from the program. Upon withdrawal, the student may be on a leave of absence for a period not to exceed twelve months from the withdrawal date. This leave of absence will not count against the program's time limits. Only one leave of absence is allowed during the course of study. When the student is ready to resume studies, he or she must complete a Readmission Application available from the Admissions Office or accessed online

at www.LutherRice.edu. For additional information, see “Readmission Policies” and “Withdrawal from the Institution.”

Students in the Ph.D. in Organizational Leadership must register for LD 9803 each semester until they receive approval from their chair to register for their defense (i.e., LD 9804). The doctoral student will be required to pay tuition and technology fees each semester up to and including their registration for LD 9804.

Each semester’s registration for LD 9803 will receive a grade of “NC.” If the student is approved to register for his defense (LD 9804), the preceding course grades for LD 9803 will change to “R,” and the final grade for LD 9803 will be assigned a letter grade of “A” or “B.” If the student is not approved to register for his defense (LD 9804), the preceding course grades for LD 9803 will remain “NC,” and the final grade for LD 9803 will be assigned a letter grade of “C,” “D,” or “F.”

Grading Policy

The Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership student must earn a minimum grade of “B” in each course. Failure to achieve a grade of “B” will necessitate repeating the course or taking an approved substitute course. For information on dropping below a 3.0 grade point average, see the section on “Academic Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal.”

Lifelong Learning Offer

To encourage the students in lifelong learning, all graduates of the Luther Rice Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership are invited to audit future doctoral modules on a space-available basis without incurring tuition or an audit fee.

Doctor of Philosophy in Organizational Leadership 48 hours

- LD 8800—A History of Leadership and Introduction to Academic Writing (3 credit hours)
- LD 8802—Leadership Theory and Research Design (3 credit hours)
- LD 8804—Organizational Theory and Diagnosis (3 credit hours)
- LD 8806—Leaders and Followers (3 credit hours)
- LD 8808—Leadership Values and Communication (3 credit hours)
- LD 8810—The Leader as Servant (3 credit hours)
- LD 8812—Research and Data Analysis (3 credit hours)
- LD 8814—Leading in Human Services (3 credit hours)
- LD 8816—The Leader as Researcher and Teacher (3 credit hours)
- LD 8818—Leadership Coaching (3 credit hours)
- LD 8820—Leadership Team Building (3 credit hours)
- LD 8822—The Leader and Conflict Resolution (3 credit hours)
- LD 9800—Dissertation Problem Statement Identified (1 credit hour)
- LD 9806—Dissertation Prospectus (3 credit hour)
- LD 9807—Dissertation Literature Review and Methodology (3 credit hours)
- LD 9808—Dissertation Writing and Research (3 credit hour)
- LD 9809—Dissertation Reviews, Edits, and Defense (2 credit hours)

Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Scripture

The Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Scripture degree program is compatible with the Luther Rice mission statement. The mission of Luther Rice College and Seminary is “to serve the church and community by providing biblically based on-campus and distance education to Christian men and women for ministry and the marketplace with an end to granting undergraduate and graduate degrees.”

The Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Scripture is designed to train students in the rigor and skills necessary to become competent scholars in the areas of the Old Testament, New Testament, and Biblical Theology. The program is designed to equip an individual with the highest levels of scholarship and performance in a broad range of contexts including but not limited to pastoral ministry, teaching, research, and writing. The program may be completed 100% online with both asynchronous and synchronous elements.

This program is designed to prepare individuals with the skills necessary to be better readers and teachers of the Christian Scripture. These skills include advanced exegetical skills related to the Hebrew and Greek canons of both the Old and New Testaments. The program also includes an emphasis on methodologies related to biblical interpretation and biblical theology. These elements are meant to introduce the individual to the variety of approaches of moving from exegesis to theology. This interdisciplinary program provides students with opportunities to engage in scholarship, to conduct research, and to develop professional competencies.

Program Learning Outcomes

Graduates of the Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Scripture will be prepared to:

- Develop Hebrew and Greek exegetical skills necessary for advanced engagement with the Christian Scripture.
- Synthesize, evaluate, and apply various methods of biblical interpretation and biblical theology to any text of the Christian Scripture.
- Understand the value of the biblical backgrounds and the history of interpretation of the Christian Scripture.
- Develop theories and methods of education as applied to teaching the Christian Scripture.
- Produce a well-researched and well-written dissertation related to the Christian Scripture.

Graduate Degree Prerequisite

The Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Scripture presumes a graduate-level knowledge and competence. An applicant should have completed an earned graduate degree in biblical studies, divinity, theology, or related discipline of 30 credit hours or more. In addition, an applicant should have completed at least nine hours of graduate level biblical Hebrew and nine hours of graduate level biblical Greek. Such an educational background is necessary since the Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Scripture provides an educational opportunity to develop and enhance specific advanced competencies related to biblical and theological studies.

Prospects for the Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Scripture may apply to the program with 6 hours of Hebrew and 6 hours of Greek. Acceptance into the program with these hours would be on a probationary basis. During the probationary period, students will only be able to take the following courses: OT 8204, OT 8205, NT

8204, NT 8205, BI 8202, BI 8201, RW 8100 and TC 8101. After the completion of the final 3 hours of Hebrew and final 3 hours of Greek, the student will be removed from probationary status.

Continuous Enrollment and Time Limits

Students who have not enrolled in RW 8100 are allowed to take only one seminar and one reading colloquium.

The Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Scripture program requires continuous enrollment until all doctoral study is completed and all graduation requirements are fulfilled. Students may complete the program at their own pace, but they must take at least two courses per academic year and must complete all program requirements within the time limits. Failure to meet these guidelines will result in the student being administratively withdrawn from the program.

The Doctor of Philosophy program must be completed within eight years of the start date. Should extenuating circumstances force a student to suspend his or her studies for a prolonged period of time, the Registrar must be notified in writing of the student's intention to withdraw from the program. Upon withdrawal, the student may be on a leave of absence for a period not to exceed twelve months from the withdrawal date. This leave of absence will not count against the program's time limits. Only one leave of absence is allowed during the course of study. When the student is ready to resume studies, he or she must complete a Readmission Application available from the Admissions Office or accessed online at www.LutherRice.edu. For additional information, see "Readmission Policies" and "Withdrawal from the Institution."

Grading Policy

The Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Scripture student must earn a minimum grade of "B" in each course. Failure to achieve a grade of "B" will necessitate repeating the course or taking an approved substitute course. For information on dropping below a 3.0 grade point average, see the section on "Academic Probation, Suspension, and Dismissal."

Lifelong Learning Offer

To encourage the students in lifelong learning, all graduates of the Luther Rice Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Scripture are invited to audit future doctoral courses on a space-available basis without incurring tuition or an audit fee.

Doctor of Philosophy in Christian Scripture 58 hours

- OT 8206—Old Testament Theology (3 credit hours)
- OT 8201—Readings in the Pentateuch (3 credit hours)
- OT 8202—Readings in Hebrew Poetry (3 credit hours)
- OT 8203—Readings in the Prophets (3 credit hours)
- NT 8200—New Testament Theology (3 credit hours)
- NT 8201—Readings in the Gospels and Acts (3 credit hours)
- NT 8202—Readings in the Pauline Epistles (3 credit hours)
- NT 8203—Readings in the General Epistles (3 credit hours)
- BI 8201—Advanced Biblical Interpretation (3 credit hours)
- TH 8601—Methods in Biblical Theology (3 credit hours)

OT 8204—Old Testament Backgrounds (3 credit hours)
OT 8205—Old Testament Studies (3 credit hours)
NT 8204—New Testament Backgrounds (3 credit hours)
NT 8205—New Testament Studies (3 credit hours)
BI 8202—Biblical Interpretation Studies (3 credit hours)
RW 8100—Academic Research and Writing (2 credit hours)
TC 8101—Teaching in Higher Education (3 credit hours)
CS 8203—Competency Exams (2 credit hours)
CS 8204—Oral Defense of Competency Exams (1 credit hours)
CS 9200—Dissertation Prospectus Development (1 credit hours)
CS 9201—Dissertation Research and Writing (3 credit hours)
CS 9202—Dissertation Oral Defense (1 credit hours)



"Luther Rice has been such a blessing in my life and ministry. Luther Rice gave me an opportunity to go to seminary without uprooting my family or putting full-time ministry on hold. I found Luther Rice to be a Christ-centered, Bible-believing, and historically Baptist school where every professor cared for me and my family, as well as the local church.

I would highly recommend Luther Rice to anyone looking for a school where you will be challenged to grow in both your personal faith and your skill for ministry."

***Bradley T. Hall, Master of Arts in Biblical Counseling and
Master of Divinity Graduate***