

## SEMINARY PROGRAMS

Luther Rice offers two seminary degrees to prepare Christian ministers for excellence in service to the local church and denominational entities. The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree is designed to provide a broad base of knowledge to fit the needs of students preparing for a lifetime of ministry. The M.Div. may be earned entirely online or by a combination of both online and on-campus classes.

The seminary curriculum represents those areas considered essential for effective Christian service in a range of contexts. The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) 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. A majority of the D.Min. may be earned online - with only four, 1-week modules required on-campus at Luther Rice.



*“The education I received at Luther Rice prepared me for what has been 20 years of effective ministry for the Lord Jesus Christ. As a Senior Pastor, I regularly use what was invested in me at Luther Rice to now invest in other lives by preaching the Word of God, counseling, evangelizing and watching Community Bible Church grow and impact our city for eternity. Thank you Luther Rice for training me to be a Christ-like leader of others. To God be the glory.”*

***Joe Esarey, Master of Divinity graduate, Lead Pastor***

## Master of Divinity

The Master of Divinity (M.Div.) degree is designed to provide a broad base of knowledge to fit the needs of students preparing for a lifetime of ministry. The curriculum is representative of those areas considered essential for effective Christian service in a range of contexts. These areas include studies in Bible, Church History, Theology, Preaching, Pastoral Ministry, Counseling, and Missions.

### Program Options

Students may choose to complete the M.Div. with open electives or with biblical languages. The open electives track allows students to customize their course of study with twenty-four hours of electives which may be drawn from courses offered for the Master of Arts programs in Apologetics, Biblical Counseling, and Leadership. Students also have the option to follow a plan that includes the biblical languages of Greek and Hebrew. The track with biblical languages provides additional preparation needed for those who will serve in contexts where they regularly proclaim or teach the Bible. Students wishing to continue to post-graduate study may also need the biblical languages as pre-requisites for their chosen fields of research. Students who wish to enroll in the Biblical Languages Track must have a minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.

### Course Sequencing

As a general rule, students in their first year of study should complete 5000 level courses, second year students 6000 level courses, and third year students 7000 courses. Courses at the 6000 level assume skills and knowledge acquired from 5000 level courses. Courses at the 7000 level assume preparation at both 5000 and 6000 levels.

### Program Learning Outcomes

All graduates of the Master of Divinity program will be prepared to:

- Interpret the Bible in light of its historical-grammatical context
- Utilize the Church's historical and theological heritage as an important resource in their personal spiritual development and ministry
- Articulate a biblical philosophy of ministry consistent with their vocation
- Communicate biblical and theological truths through preaching, teaching, writing, or in such other ways as may be appropriate
- Evaluate and develop ministries in light of the Great Commission and the Great Commandment
- Accurately and empathetically evaluate people and their personal circumstances and provide appropriate pastoral care or referral
- Lead in developing goals and designing and implementing ministry
- Serve with Christian character in their personal and professional lives

**Master of Divinity  
Open Elective Track  
90 hours**

**Biblical Studies (21 hours)**

OT 5200—Introduction to the Old Testament  
NT 5200—Introduction to the New Testament  
BH 5201—Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics  
Old Testament Book Studies (two courses)  
New Testament Book Studies (two courses)

**Historical Studies (6 hours)**

HI 5311—Church History I: Early and Medieval  
HI 5312—Church History II: Reformation and Modern

**Theological Studies (12 hours)**

TH 5300—Spiritual Formation  
TH 6301—Systematic Theology I  
TH 6302—Systematic Theology II  
TH 6303—Systematic Theology III

**Ministerial Studies (27 hours)**

EV 7401—Personal and Church Evangelism  
CM 7402—The Work of Ministry  
PH 5904—Foundations of Ethics  
MI 7403—Christian Missions  
CO 5704—Marriage and Family Counseling  
BE 7404—Preparing an Expository Message  
BE 7405—Delivering an Expository Message  
CM 7406—Church Administration  
CM 7407—Ministry Practicum

**Open Electives (24 hours\*)**

\* All Master's level courses are available as electives with the exception of MA capstone courses (i.e., practica).

**Master of Divinity**  
**Biblical Language Track**  
**90 hours**

**Biblical Studies (21 hours)**

OT 5200—Introduction to the Old Testament  
NT 5200—Introduction to the New Testament  
BH 5201—Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics  
Old Testament Book Studies (two courses)  
New Testament Book Studies (two courses)

**Historical Studies (6 hours)**

HI 5311—Church History I: Early and Medieval  
HI 5312—Church History II: Reformation and Modern

**Theological Studies (12 hours)**

TH 5300—Spiritual Formation  
TH 6301—Systematic Theology I  
TH 6302—Systematic Theology II  
TH 6303—Systematic Theology III

**Ministerial Studies (27 hours)**

EV 7401—Personal and Church Evangelism  
CM 7402—The Work of Ministry  
PH 5904—Foundations of Ethics  
MI 7403—Christian Missions  
CO 5704—Marriage and Family Counseling  
BE 7404—Preparing an Expository Message  
BE 7405—Delivering an Expository Message  
CM 7406—Church Administration  
CM 7407—Ministry Practicum

**Biblical Languages (24 hours)**

GR 5201—Greek Grammar I  
GR 5202—Greek Grammar II  
GR 6203—Intermediate Greek  
GR 6204—Greek Exegesis  
HE 5201—Hebrew Grammar I  
HE 5202—Hebrew Grammar II  
HE 6203—Intermediate Hebrew  
HE 6204—Hebrew Exegesis

## 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

### Master of Divinity Prerequisite

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 which culminated in the Master of Divinity degree or its equivalent. 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.

An applicant whose Master's degree is not equivalent to the M.Div. but who has completed at least 60 semester hours of coursework in graduate-level biblical, theological, and ministerial studies may enroll as a non-degree seeking special student and complete graduate-level courses to make up the deficit between their degree and the 90 hour M.Div. In this case, no degree will be awarded; students desiring to obtain the degree should enroll in the M.Div. program. Neither the completion of the deficit credit nor the earning of an M.Div. degree guarantees acceptance into the Doctor of Ministry program. Once the M.Div. or its equivalency has been completed, the student should begin normal application procedures for the Doctor of Ministry program.

### 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. Normally the program is completed in three years. 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](http://www.LutherRice.edu). For additional information, see "Readmission Policies" and "Withdrawal from the Institution."

A student desiring to graduate in May of 2019 must adhere to the following dates:

- The Project Proposal must be approved by a faculty committee no later than September 30, 2018.
- The first draft of the Doctoral Ministry Project must be submitted by January 15, 2019 for participation in a projected May 2019 graduation.
- The final draft of the Doctoral ministry Project must be submitted by March 1, 2019 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 30, 2019 prior to May 2019 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 seminars 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. The curriculum is comprised of a total of ten courses. Four of the courses must be completed in an extended modular format (on-campus and online), 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 extended 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 which are offered every semester:

1. DM 8500 – Doctoral Ministry Project Design (3 hours credit). The Ministry Project Design course explains in detail the process for creating an acceptable Ministry Project Proposal. The goal for this course is to mentor 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 Ministry Project Mentor, who will be assigned prior to the student’s enrollment in the course. The other two faculty members will serve as readers. After the student’s proposal has received official approval, the student may then implement the ministry plan in his or her place of ministry. **Prerequisite: DM 8000 – Research and Writing for Ministry.**
2. DM9500–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 mentor has approved the Ministry Project, 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. The defense will be conducted either in person or by conference call (whichever is more feasible for the doctoral candidate). Candidates are encouraged to contact their mentors 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 Project Design.**

## **Doctoral Ministry Project Mentors**

Mentors 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 development of a Ministry Proposal, through its implementation and writing, to the oral defense and graduation. Students are encouraged to work closely with their mentors throughout the process. Academic administration may assign students to their mentors any time between the student’s completion of DM 8000 and his or her enrollment in DM 8500. The mentor’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**

**On-campus 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 Biblical Counseling (Offered in the Summer Semester)

DM 8400—Contemporary Leadership Development (Offered in the Spring Semester)

DM 9100—Ethics in Ministry (Offered in the Spring Semester)

DM 9200—Relationships in Ministry (Offered in the Fall Semester)

**Doctoral Ministry Project (6 hours)**

DM 8500—Doctoral Ministry Project Design (Offered in the Fall and Spring Semesters)

DM 9500—Doctoral Ministry Project (Offered Every Semester)