

“Discovering vocation does not mean scrambling toward some prize just beyond my reach but accepting the treasure of true self I already possess. Vocation does not come from a voice ‘out there’ calling me to be something I am not. It comes from a voice ‘in here’ calling me to be the person I was born to be, to fulfill the original selfhood given me at birth by God.”

— Thomas Merton

For further information about the program or curriculum, contact the Reverend Dr. Paul Hooker, associate dean for ministerial formation and advanced studies, phooker@austinseminary.edu, 512-404-4880.

To apply, contact the Reverend Jack Barden, vice president for admissions, jbarden@austinseminary.edu.

An interview is required prior to admission.

AustinSeminary.edu/DMin



photo by Jaime Canavos



100 East 27th Street | Austin, TX 78705-5711
austinseminary.edu | 800-241-1085



AUSTIN
PRESBYTERIAN
THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

THE Doctor of Ministry
at Austin Seminary

How will your vocation grow?

Growth—spiritual, intellectual, and vocational—is the goal of the Doctor of Ministry program at Austin Seminary. As a DMin student, you will couple stronger abilities in biblical and theological reflection with greater competence in ministerial practice, culminating in a project tailored to your specific ministry setting. Along the way, you will develop new skills and acquire new resources for ministry.

“Before starting the DMin at Austin Seminary, I could not fathom how much this doctoral program would enhance and strengthen my leadership and commitment to my congregation. Now, at the end of my coursework, I realize that the two congregations I have worked in have benefited even more from this program than I have as an individual. Congregations should not only support clergy considering doctoral work at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, they should be encouraging them to do so!”

—Helen Svoboda-Barber (Current Student)
Rector, St. Luke's Episcopal Church,
Durham, North Carolina

Program overview

Doctor of Ministry courses take place in residence on Austin Seminary’s campus in January, June, and August. Terms last either one or two weeks, and you may enroll in one course per term. After completing coursework, you will have up to two years to complete the design, execution, and analysis of a final doctoral project in your chosen concentration.

Phase I: Elective Courses (four terms, two years)

As an entering student, you will select a concentration in which to develop ministry competence. Phase I consists of four elective courses, at least three of which must be taken within the chosen area. (See panel at right for a description of the concentrations.)

Phase II: Methods Seminars (two terms, one year)

You will take two of three seminars that prepare you with research theories and methods appropriate to your concentration. Skills acquired in these seminars are directly applicable in the final project. Skill sets include contextual analysis and qualitative research methods, as well as biblical and theological hermeneutics.

Phase III: Final Project (two years)

In Phase III you will select an aspect of ministry—a problem or concern in your ministry context or an issue or question of interest and importance to that context—and develop a project that addresses it. You will integrate contextual analysis and theological and methodological reflection as you design your project. Your report will contain an evaluation of the project’s results and consider directions for future research. A faculty mentor will guide your research and review all your work. At the project’s conclusion, you and your faculty mentor will conduct an oral evaluation. Projects are opportunities to make significant contributions to the understanding and practice of ministry. We view DMin projects as gifts to the church, and copies are added to the collection of the Stitt Library.

“My DMin experience at Austin Seminary has impacted me in two significant ways. First, it has facilitated quality academic reflection in a setting tailor made for those who are actually in full-time ministry. Secondly, the wide, ecumenical mix of students and faculty has allowed me to enter into weighty dialogue that has truly stretched and enhanced the way I minister to my own congregation.”

—Greg Massey (Current Student)
Pastor, Vineyard of Grace Church, Fort Worth

Concentrations

Christian Spirituality & the Practice of Ministry

This concentration brings together spiritual formation and theological reflection with matters that confront people in daily life. Students explore the significance of work, the relationship of money and spiritual well-being, and classical and contemporary practices of prayer. The **Chaplaincy Focus** in this concentration is designed to address spirituality and ministry issues, such as medical ethics or grief and the dying process, faced by those engaged in chaplaincy.

The Church’s Life & the Practice of Ministry

This concentration focuses on the church’s shared life, including the various ways the Christian community is called to embody its faith in practice. You will reflect on the church’s history and its practices of education and formation, care and counseling, mission and evangelism.

Theology & the Practice of Ministry

In this concentration you will focus on theological or ethical questions that arise in communities of faith and human society, examine the interplay between contemporary questions and classical doctrines, explore challenges and opportunities in Christian ministry in a religiously plural context, and probe the history of Christian traditions with an eye to the church’s future.

Proclamation & Worship

This concentration allows you to study the history, theology, and ritual actions of worship. Students also examine a wide range of aspects of proclamation and will reflect on the interdisciplinary nature of proclamation by engaging current practices and trends.