

DMIN

Doctor of Ministry

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

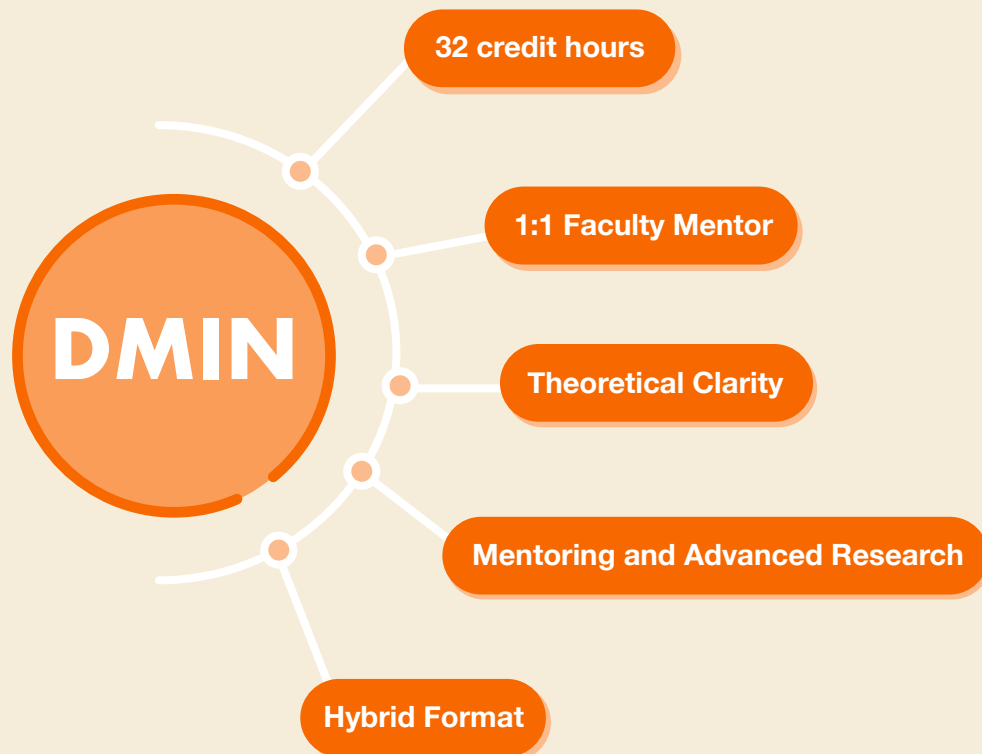
SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

DMin

The DMin will help you further your skills in ministry and provide you with the kind of learning experience that you will value throughout your lifetime.

In its recent accreditation visit, the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) affirmed McAfee's Doctor of Ministry program for its integrative nature as well as its strong focus on the practice of ministry. The program has been recognized for:

- High Academic Standards
- Strong Research Contributions
- Diverse Faculty
- Graduate projects reflect an effective partnership between students, their ministry contexts, and the school.



Program Format

The DMin program is designed to accommodate the schedules of working professionals. The hybrid format allows students to remain fully engaged with their families, full-time ministries, and places of residence while completing the program.

- Students engage in a hybrid learning format that allows them to attend 2-week seminars with their cohorts.
- Students remain in their fields of service for the entire program.
- Students come directly to McAfee for classes and focused collegial interaction, for individual study at the library, and to engage in consultation with the student's faculty supervisor.
- A student's assigned faculty mentor supervises their thesis, discusses research ideas alongside them, and provides guidance during the writing process. Mentoring is flexible, student initiated, and all through remote contact either via phone or Zoom.



Program Specializations

Doctoral students can specialize in the following areas:

Christian Spirituality

Christian Spirituality focuses on ministry designed to enhance spiritual formation and disciplines of prayer, and to equip congregants to develop their faith commitments through the leadership of a minister as spiritual guide.

Justice and Peacemaking

This specialization focuses on the application of the ethical mandates of the Kingdom of God.

Leadership and Ministry

Students will study how to lead congregations in transformational processes, adapt to changing community contexts and develop creative initiatives such as coaching.

Preaching

Students focused on the art of preaching will explore creative ways to communicate the gospel through the spoken and written word.

Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy

Students engage in ministry projects related to pastoral counseling, chaplaincy services, and congregational care.

Scripture and Life of the Church

In Scripture and Life of the Church, students will focus on the importance of a biblically based ministry and are challenged to evaluate their ministry in terms of scripture.

Theology and Christian Worship

Worship focused ministry projects concentrate on how congregations address differing worship traditions. Worship styles are explored to give insight to the student regarding the meaning, development, and history of various approaches

Mission and Community Development

This area offers opportunities for students to develop projects that focus on the Kingdom of God as a redeeming reality. Students examine issues that affect the church's mission such as postmodernism, cultural shifts, social justice, and demographic changes.

Have more questions? Schedule an appointment with your Admissions Counselor or go to <https://theology.mercer.edu/admissions/faq/>

Program Features

Mentoring & Advanced Research Integration

These three units are completed in the student's place of ministry:

- Spirituality and Vocation
- Clarity and Context
- Specialization and Integration

Each student in the DMin program will work with a Faculty Supervisor in their area of specialization. Supervisors provide advising in the program process, collaboration on mentoring and integrating advanced research and ministry, and supervision of the project thesis.

Faculty Mentoring

Seminars

Students will attend three hybrid seminars of 2 weeks duration each, normally scheduled in summer. Each seminar will be a combination of:

- Core requirements of reading
- Reports on readings
- Written presentations integrating the seminar subject with one's ministry

Project Thesis

The culmination of the DMin program is the completion of a Project Thesis. The Project Thesis should reflect the research skills learned in the program and demonstrate the student's capacity to integrate biblical, theological, historical, and contextual research with a specific ministry project that is practical and reflective of the student's abilities as a leader and minister.

"McAfee School of Theology's DMin program is one of the most sophisticated programs in academia. It not only provides a scholarly aspect, it also provides clergy leaders and ministry professionals with a practice-oriented doctorate to enhance their leadership and ministry skills. This program fosters creativity while cultivating new skills. This was the best program for me and my ministry is all the better for it."
Rev. Dr. Libya BaaQar, Class of 2019 Graduate of DMin program



"We understand our DMIN program to be a partnership between McAfee, the student and the church or institution that the student serves to bring new spiritual and institutional energy in ways that transform and replenish the context of ministry. Our students' ministry projects have been identified as models to which projects at other seminaries and divinity schools should aspire. Our graduates have gone on to places of significant leadership in denominations, churches, hospitals and college campuses across the nation. Consider yourself invited to enhance your ministry by virtue of the good work that we can accomplish together."

Dr. Heidi Miller, Director of the DMin Program

Is the DMin at McAfee right for me?

Do you have a
Master of Divinity or
Master in Ministry?

Yes

No

If yes, you likely qualify for our DMin Program - you can verify by speaking with an Admissions Counselor.

Call 678.547.6474 or email theologyadmissions@mercer.edu

If no, applicant must have completed:

- One course in Old Testament (3 hours)
- One course in New Testament (3 hours)
- One course in Theology (3 hours)
- One course in Ethics (3 hours)
- One course in Church History (3 hours)
- One course in intercultural studies (3 hours)
- Three courses in practical ministry (9 hours)
- At least one course in supervised ministry or CPE (3 hours)
- At least one course in spiritual formation (2 hours)
- At least 38 credit hours total



DMin Admission Requirements

- Master of Divinity or Master in Ministry from a regionally accredited college or university
- 3.0 GPA or better
- 2 years of ministry experience (or 4800 hours)

Special Abbreviated Application for McAfee Graduates:

Are you eligible?

- Prospective students must meet the following requirements in order to qualify for the abbreviated application process for the Doctor of Ministry:
- Completed their MDiv or MACM from McAfee no more than one calendar year from the term for which they are applying.
- Graduated with a minimum 3.0 GPA
- Accumulated three years of full-time ministry experience
- Remained in Good Standing with the university throughout their degree program

What does the abbreviated application require?

- Resume/CV
- Covenant of Support
- Background Check (within five years of semester start date)
- Career Assessment
- Interview with the Associate Dean for the Doctor of Ministry

Which application items are waived?

- Application Fee
- Letters of Recommendation
- Academic Writing Sample
- Background Check (if within five years of semester start date)
- Transcripts

*McAfee School of Theology reserves the right to request additional documents from the applicant.

For more information on the abbreviated application, please contact McAfee Admissions at theologyadmissions@mercer.edu or 678.547.6474.

Application

The Academic Council grants admission to the DMin degree program. Decisions are based on the total profile of the applicant, including an analysis of the applicant's writing ability; quality of recommendations; grade point averages of academic work; and the nature and extent of the applicant's ministry experience.

1. Submit Online App

- **Submit application online:** <https://theology.mercer.edu/admissions/apply-now/>
- Ask your Admissions Counselor for a code to **waive your application fee!**



2. Background Check

- **Background Check*:** Completed online at Castle Branch. Please allow up to a month for us to receive the report. The package cost is \$31.75, which must be ordered and purchased directly online by the applicant.

3. Additional Written Documents

The following can be uploaded by the applicant to the online application portal or emailed to theologyadmissions@mercer.edu

- **Career Assessment:** 3-4 page, written career assessment describing the applicant's history, ministry experience, ministry competencies, sense of call, goals for DMin study, theological self-reflection and a general area of research interest for a Project Thesis.
- **Writing Sample:** 2000-2500 words (may be an excerpt) of an academic paper from a theological graduate course. Please include bibliography and in text citations or footnotes.
- **Covenant of Support:** This document is to ensure institutional and contextual support from the applicant's community of faith or supporting ministry context.

4. Official Transcripts

The following will need to be submitted to us **directly from** your higher education institutions:

- **Official Transcripts:** Required from all higher educational institutions previously attended. A grade point average of 3.25 from all master's degree study in theology is preferred. Official transcripts from all higher education institutions previously attended. A grade point average of 3.25 from all master's degree study in theology is preferred. Applicants should reach out to the Office of Admissions to receive a transcript evaluation and to discuss their qualifications. Transcripts can be submitted electronically from your previous school's ordering service or through the mail in a sealed envelope to:

McAfee School of Theology, Mercer University
Office of Admissions
3001 Mercer University Drive
Atlanta, GA 30341

5. Recommendations

Applicants will need a total of three recommenders to complete our Doctor of Ministry Recommendation Form. Your recommenders can submit the completed form to us at theologyadmissions@mercer.edu. Recommenders chosen must consist of the following:

- Pastor/Church Leader
- Professor/Supervisor
- Professor/Supervisor

6. Interview

An on-site, Zoom, or telephone interview arranged by the Office of Admissions with the Director of our Doctor of Ministry program.

Note: Failure to undergo the background check will result in exclusion from admission consideration. An individual with a criminal conviction is not automatically excluded from admission; the School will evaluate the time frame, nature, gravity, and relevancy of the conviction or charge offense in making a decision. Applicants may appeal the decision and will have the opportunity to present information to dispute the background check.



What Happens After I Apply?

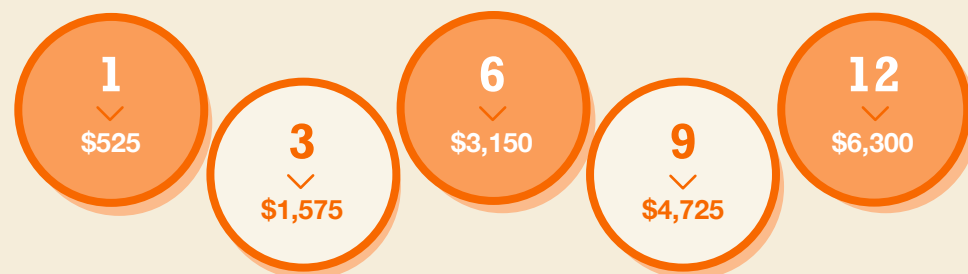
Upon action by the committee, the Academic Council will send a letter notifying the applicant of its decision. Each admitted student must also complete a University Health form prior to registration, as well as submit to a criminal background check.

Transfer Credit

Students may receive credit for courses taken at another institution as transfer credit. The number of hours accepted as transfer credit will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. The maximum allowed credit is 10 credit hours for the DMin program. Transfer credit can only be considered when a student has not yet had their degree conferred from their previous higher education institution. Only courses taken at a regionally accredited college or university are considered for transfer credit.

Tuition Breakdown by Credit Hour:

Tuition is \$525 per credit hour after a 60% tuition grant has automatically been applied.



In addition to tuition, there is a facility and technology fee that will be a maximum of \$150 per semester.



Financial Aid

Federal student loans, FAFSA inquiries, and tuition balances and payments are administered through Mercer Office of Student Financial Planning (OSFP). You can contact their office here:

- Call: 678.547.6444
- Text: 478.841.9558

To find out more about Financial Aid at Mercer, check out:

- <https://financialaid.mercer.edu/>

To start your FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid), go to:

- <https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa>
- Mercer's school code is **001580**.

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