DEGREE OVERVIEW
The Doctor of Ministry degree is a three-year, 36 credit-hour professional program. The program aims to better equip students to address whole person healthcare needs; both as individual spiritual care providers and as collaborative professionals partnering with other care providers.

Program participants are expected to complete coursework alongside their work as a chaplain in a professional ministry setting.

PROGRAM FORMAT
During each of the first four of six semesters, program participants will complete an academic course and a practicum. During the final two semesters, participants will focus on research and writing for their D.Min. project.

Each course requires completing distance modules, written papers, and attending a 3.5-day in-person training intensive. Distance modules are made up of three 60-minute video didactics, readings, and interactive online assignments. While general guidelines are provided, there is substantial flexibility in choosing when to complete the distance modules.

ACADEMICS
Practica focus on the application of course material through case examples as part of learning how to incorporate different evidence-based modalities into their chaplain care. To enhance collaboration with interdisciplinary colleagues, all participants will engage together in 90-minute small group calls during the second week of each distance module. Each participant will present an actual (de-identified) case during these sessions.

INTERDISCIPLINARY CONTEXT
This innovative degree is tailored to the contexts of chaplaincy and uses applied, formational, and interactive approaches. Students will cultivate knowledge and skills in evidence-based psychosocial and collaborative approaches to spiritual and pastoral care. Additionally, the program integrates research-informed knowledge and evidence-based approaches with spiritual care practices. This approach helps to integrate chaplains more completely as valued partners and leaders in the systems where they operate.

Program participants will attend the first three semesters of coursework with students of the Mental Health Integration for Chaplain Services (MHICS) program. All students will receive a MHICS certificate after completing those semesters.

FINANCIAL AID
The hour-per-credit cost for 2020-2021 is $1,004. Military chaplains (active duty, guard, or reserve) receive a 30% discount off the standard tuition rate. VA chaplains pursuing the D.Min. who are admitted through the MHICS Certificate program receive a discounted rate that is detailed via communications with VA Mental Health and Chaplaincy. Admitted students are eligible for 30% merit awards.
DIV 8001: METHODS FOR MINISTRY I  
DIV 8002: METHODS FOR MINISTRY I PRACTICUM  
Innovations in Care in Mental Health and Chaplaincy  
This first course and practicum involves a face-to-face kickoff that introduces chaplains to the MHICS and D.Min. program, followed by six distance modules that examine historical and contemporary possibilities for integrating spiritual and psychotherapeutic approaches to care, lay the groundwork for integrating these approaches, and introduce three evidence-based modalities that can synergize with spiritual care: Acceptance and Commitment Training (ACT); Motivational Interviewing (MI); and Problem-Solving Training (PST). Consultation calls in this practicum focus on integrating course materials and collaboration with interdisciplinary colleagues.

- Face-to-face training intensive: Fall (September)  
  Module 1: Pastoral care and approaches to psychotherapy (2 weeks)  
  Module 2: Chaplaincy standards of practice (2 weeks)  
  Module 3: Spiritual care and innovations (2 weeks)  
  Module 4: Acceptance and Commitment Training (ACT; 2 weeks)  
  Module 5: Motivational Interviewing Training (MI; 2 weeks)  
  Module 6: Problem-Solving Training (PST; 2 weeks)

DIV 8003: METHODS FOR MINISTRY II  
DIV 8004: METHODS FOR MINISTRY II PRACTICUM  
Signs and Symptoms in Mental Health and Chaplaincy  
The second course and accompanying practicum provides six distance modules of intensive training on mental health problems that are prevalent and/or of particular importance within Veteran and Service member populations. Following a broad overview of approaches to and contexts for mental health care is information on the etiology and treatment of mood disorders, substance abuse, serious mental illness, suicide, posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and moral injury. Consultation calls in this practicum focus on the application of ACT in chaplaincy care.

- Face-to-face training intensive: Winter (January)  
  Module 1: Mental health essentials (2 weeks)  
  Module 2: Mood disorders, substance abuse, and serious mental illness (2 weeks)  
  Module 3: Suicide (2 weeks)  
  Module 4: Upstream Suicide Prevention (2 weeks)  
  Module 5: Posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD; 2 weeks)  
  Module 6: Moral injury (2 weeks)

DIV 8005: METHODS FOR MINISTRY III  
DIV 8006: METHODS FOR MINISTRY III PRACTICUM  
Contemporary Conversations in Mental Health and Chaplaincy  
The third course and practicum contains six distance modules that focus on topics of relevance at the intersection of chaplaincy, spirituality, and mental health care. The course overviews linkages between spirituality and mental health, examines the complexities and necessity of care for the care provider and command, and looks at areas of current pastoral concerns in the care of Veterans and Service members. Finally, the course concludes by considering the topics of spirituality, suffering, and resilience. Consultation calls in this practicum focus on the application of PST and MI in chaplaincy care.

- Mod 1: Spirituality and linkages to mental health (2 weeks)  
  Module 2: Research methods for chaplaincy (2 weeks)  
  Module 3: Care for the care provider (2 weeks)  
  Module 4: Special pastoral concerns (2 weeks)  
  Module 5: Culturally responsive care (2 weeks)  
  Module 6: Spirituality, suffering, and resilience (2 weeks)  
  Face-to-face training intensive: Winter (December)

DIV 8037: DOCTOR OF MINISTRY RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR I  
This course will introduce students to the Vanderbilt Divinity School Doctor of Ministry Research Project and guide them through the process of completing a successful proposal for their projects.

DIV 8038: RESEARCH FOR MINISTRY I  
Students will pursue a specific area of academic research required for their Doctor of Ministry Research Projects.

DIV 8039: RESEARCH FOR MINISTRY II  
Students will pursue a specific area of academic research required for their Doctor of Ministry Research Projects.

DIV 8040: DOCTOR OF MINISTRY RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR II  
Students will write their Doctor of Ministry Research Projects.

APPLICATION DEADLINES  
The priority deadline for the D.Min. Application is April 1st for a Fall 2021 matriculation. Applications for VA-related MHICS candidates are due on April 1st, and the DOD MHICS candidates’ applications due on May 15th.

For more information  
http://divinity.vanderbilt.edu/admin  
divinity-admissions@vanderbilt.edu