



VANDERBILT  
Divinity School

# Doctor of Ministry Integrative Chaplaincy

**This innovative degree is tailored to the contexts of chaplaincy and uses applied, formational, and interactive approaches to learning. Students cultivate knowledge and skills in evidence-based psychosocial and collaborative approaches to spiritual and pastoral care. This approach helps to integrate chaplains more completely as valued partners and leaders in the systems where they operate.**

**Program participants are expected to complete coursework alongside their work as a chaplain in a professional ministry setting. The D.Min. in Integrative Chaplaincy is provided in partnership with Integrative Mental Health faculty from the Department of Veterans Affairs.**

## DEGREE OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) 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 providers.

Program participants attend the first three semesters of coursework with students of the Mental Health Integration for Chaplain Services (MHICS) program, anchored by Integrative Mental Health faculty. All students receive a MHICS certificate from the VA after completing those semesters.

## PROGRAM ELIGIBILITY

Applicants should have completed a Master of Divinity or Master of Theological Studies degree program from an ATS accredited school, or the educational equivalent from an approved institution. Students are assumed to have endorsing religious bodies, and applicants functioning as clinical chaplains are assumed to have at least two units of CPE.

## FINANCIAL AID

All admitted applicants are eligible for merit awards. VA chaplains pursuing the D.Min. who are admitted through the MHICS program receive a discounted rate that is detailed via communications with VA Integrative Mental Health. Visit the website for updated information on the cost per credit hour.

## PROGRAM FORMAT

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

Each course requires completing distance modules and written papers, and each of the first three semesters has a required on-campus, 3.5-day training intensive. Distance modules last two weeks each and are made up of video didactics, readings, interactive online assignments, and assessments. While general guidelines are provided, there is substantial flexibility in choosing when to complete the distance module content.

## PRACTICA

Practica focus on the application of course material through case examples as part of learning how to incorporate different evidence-based modalities into chaplain care and enhance collaboration with interdisciplinary colleagues. Students engage in 90-minute small group calls, weekly with peers and biweekly with faculty, and present actual (de-identified) cases during these sessions.

**DIV 8001: METHODS FOR MINISTRY I**

**DIV 8002: METHODS FOR MINISTRY I PRACTICUM**

In the first course and practicum, students examine historical and contemporary possibilities for integrating spiritual and psychosocial approaches to care and consider chaplaincy standards of practice, particularly in the context of interdisciplinary teamwork. Students then consider and explore integration of principles from three evidence-based practices (EBPs): Acceptance and Commitment Training (ACT), Motivational Interviewing (MI), and Problem-Solving Training (PST). Consultation calls focus on integrating course materials and collaboration with interdisciplinary colleagues.

**DIV 8003: METHODS FOR MINISTRY II**

**DIV 8004: METHODS FOR MINISTRY II PRACTICUM**

The second course and practicum provide intensive training on mental health problems that are prevalent among veterans, service members, and the broader community. Students examine approaches to and contexts for mental health care and the etiology, prevalence, and care of mood disorders, substance abuse, serious mental illness, suicide, posttraumatic stress, and moral injury. Consultation calls in this practicum focus on the application of ACT.

**DIV 8005: METHODS FOR MINISTRY III**

**DIV 8006: METHODS FOR MINISTRY III PRACTICUM**

The third course and practicum focus on topics of relevance at the intersection of chaplaincy, spirituality, and health care, including: links between religiousness/spirituality and mental health; research methods for chaplaincy; the complexities and necessity of care for care providers, staff, and leadership; culturally responsive care; and suffering and resilience. Consultation calls in this practicum focus on the application of PST and MI in chaplaincy care.

**RESEARCH SEMINAR SEQUENCE**

**DIV 8037-39: RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR I-III**

This three-semester sequence of seminars will lead students through conceiving, developing, and completing the Vanderbilt Divinity School D.Min. Research Project. Students work individually and in consultation groups, with two faculty co-teachers.

**APPLICATION DEADLINE**

The priority deadline is April 1 for fall matriculation. Applications received after that time will be considered on a rolling basis until June 1.

YEAR	TERM	COURSEWORK	CREDIT HOURS
1ST YEAR	FALL	DIV 8001: COURSE I DIV 8002: COURSE I PRACTICUM	4 4
	SPRING	DIV 8003: COURSE II DIV 8004: COURSE II PRACTICUM	4 4
2ND YEAR	FALL	DIV 8005: COURSE III DIV 8006: COURSE III PRACTICUM	4 4
	SPRING	DIV 8037: DMIN RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR I	4
3RD YEAR	FALL	DIV 8038: DMIN RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR II	4
	SPRING	DIV 8039: DMIN RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR III	4

more info



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