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 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 Mental Health and Chaplaincy faculty from the Department of Veterans Affairs.

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.

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

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.

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 program receive a discounted rate that is detailed via communications with VA Mental Health and Chaplaincy. All other students are eligible for 30% merit awards.
**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 DOD MHICS candidate applications due on May 15th.

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**FACE-TO-FACE TRAINING INTENSIVE: WINTER (DECEMBER)**

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

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**DOCTOR OF MINISTRY RESEARCH SEMINAR SEQUENCE**

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.

**DIV 8037: RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR I**

Students are introduced to Divinity Library and Faculty resources and craft the Prospectus and Definition of the Pastoral-Theological Issue they will pursue.

**DIV 8038: RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR II**

Students research and draft their Exploration and Analysis of the Pastoral-Theological issue they have defined.

**DIV 8039: RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR III**

Students draft their Constructive Reflection and Interpretation section, revise and submit the final complete document, and have a concluding oral examination with two Divinity faculty.

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**APPLICATION DEADLINES**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

- **divinity.vanderbilt.edu/admin**
- **divinity-admissions@vanderbilt.edu**