



As a professional degree, the D.Min. combines academic rigor and praxis, with an emphasis on enhancing the practice of ministry. Intentionally interdisciplinary, our program serves scholar-practitioners in a variety of Christian-oriented leadership contexts such as congregational ministry, missions, church planting, chaplaincy and nonprofit organizations.

Building on your prior theological studies, our D.Min. is designed to deepen your practice as a ministerial leader by offering tools to refine theological reflection and guide research, enhance leadership skills as you serve contextually, and nurture the deep spiritual formation necessary to sustain a God-shaped ministry in diverse cultural contexts.

Why the D.Min. at ACU?

- More than merely continuing education, our D.Min. provides a structured learning context, offering integrative tools to serve you through a lifetime of ministerial leadership.
- We partner with you to care for your personal, professional and spiritual formation.
- Through our unique partnership with Melbourne-based Stirling Theological College and University of Divinity (UD), you will learn alongside Christian leaders from both sides of the Pacific.
- As an ACU D.Min. student, you will enter a community of lifelong learners and disciples. Many of our alumni develop deep friendships here that extend for decades after graduation.
- Drawn from ACU, Stirling and beyond, our world-class faculty are active in both scholarship and ministry.

How is the program designed?

Our D.Min. is a 33-hour degree including orientation, 27 hours of coursework, and a project/thesis (6 hours). Our program includes a series of intensive classes including online components, and most of our courses also require a brief face-to-face residency.

These residency periods occur just twice a year for one to two weeks, allowing you to travel for only brief periods and remain connected with your family and ministry contexts throughout the remainder of the year.

You may complete your D.Min. in as few as three years or take up to six years.

Does this program offer tracks?

If completing your D.Min. in the U.S., you may choose from three specific tracks, or areas of study: Christian Spiritual Formation, Leadership for Missional Renewal or Preaching for Community Transformation. Alternatively,

33

Number of credit hours

36

Months average time to completion



Complete intensives and online classes

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

If you are someone in professional ministry who would like to further your practice through advanced study that deeply engages with your context, then the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) is designed for you.



you may choose to forgo a track, instead customizing your course selections to fit your ministerial interests.

If completing your D.Min. primarily from Australia, you may pursue our Dual Enrollment track, enabling you to earn both a D.Min. from ACU and a Graduate Diploma in Divinity (G.D.Div.) from UD.

What are the degree requirements?

- D.Min. Orientation
- Theological Foundations for the Practice of Ministry
- Project/Thesis Seminar I
- Project/Thesis Seminar II
- D.Min. Project/Thesis
- Electives (18 hours; if completing a track, you will replace 12-18 hours of your electives with courses specific to your track)

How do I qualify for this program?

You will need a Master of Divinity (M.Div.) or its educational equivalent. Visit acu.edu/gst for information about M.Div. equivalency.

Additionally, you will need to be involved in ministry and have at least three years of ministry experience following your first theological master's degree.

How do I apply?

Visit gradapply.acu.edu to complete the following elements by Jan. 31:

1. Application form and application fee.
2. Official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate work, with degrees posted. We require a minimum GPA of 3.2 (on a 4.0 scale) in prior graduate work. For international transcripts from institutions other than the University of Divinity (Melbourne, Australia), we reserve the right to require a course-by-course credential evaluation from an approved company.
3. Documentation of Ministry Employment form.
4. Recommendations from four people who are familiar with your character and performance in ministry. At least one recommendation should provide an academic reference.
5. Admission essay.
6. An interview with the D.Min. director may be required.

If accepted into our program, you may begin classes that summer or defer your enrollment for one year.

Can I afford this program?

Our D.Min. program is exceptionally affordable. We also offer need-based and merit-based scholarships, and monthly payment plans are available for the balance.

Additionally, Australian students in our Dual Enrollment track may qualify for FEE-HELP for a significant portion of the degree.

Accreditation

Abilene Christian University's Graduate School of Theology is accredited by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada to award its master's and doctoral degrees. The University of Divinity, founded in 1910, is Australia's only University of Specialisation and offers the highest standards of awards in theology and related disciplines.



D.Min. Director and Advisor
Dr. Carson Reed
carson.reed@acu.edu



ABILENE CHRISTIAN

Graduate School of Theology



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Alumna Testimonial

**Dr. Shannon
(Clarkson) Rains ('19)**

*Assistant Professor of
Children's Ministry*
Lubbock Christian University
Lubbock, Texas



"In congregational ministry, the D.Min. program pushed me to think outside of the box. I think the pace of ministry in many churches limits the leadership imagination of the minister. So, the D.Min. program provides space for ministers to embrace their ministry calling with the guidance of professors, fellow students, and outstanding academic resources."