

PROGRAM FORMAT

- Three-year online program
- Three, four-day required in-person intensives at the end of August 2026, mid-January 2027 and early December 2027

MODALITY

- Synchronous engagement with faculty and peers
- Asynchronous content delivery

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY (D.MIN.) IN INTEGRATIVE CHAPLAINCY

DEGREE OVERVIEW

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree is a three-year, 36-credit hour professional program. It equips students to address whole-person-health as individual spiritual care providers and collaborative professionals. Students complete the first three semesters of coursework through participation in the Mental Health Integration for Chaplain Services (MHICS) program from the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs. The remaining three semesters comprise of work on an integrative project in seminars with the Vanderbilt Divinity School faculty.

FINANCIAL AID

Limited merit scholarships are available on a competitive basis. All U.S. citizens and permanent residents are eligible apply for federal aid, including loans. Qualifying applicants may use GI Bill benefits.

ADMISSIONS DETAILS

- **PRIORITY DEADLINE
MARCH 15**
- Applications received after will be considered on a rolling basis until the program fills.

ELIGIBILITY

- M.Div., M.T.S. or equivalent degree required
- Current employment in chaplaincy or another context of care practice



COMMUNITY

This program is a great opportunity to connect and learn from peer practitioners.



HYBRID PROGRAM

Outside of three, four-day intensives, this program is fully online.



MENTAL HEALTH

Integrate evidence-based practices and learn from mental health faculty.

CREDIT HOURS		COURSEWORK
YEAR 1 16 Credit Hours	Fall	METHODS FOR MINISTRY I (4 HOURS) & METHODS FOR MINISTRY I PRACTICUM (4 HOURS) In the first course and practicum, students examine historical and contemporary possibilities for integrating spiritual and psychosocial approaches to care, consider chaplaincy standards of practice and explore integration of principles for three evidence-based practices (EBPs): Acceptance and Commitment Training (ACT), Motivational Interviewing, and Problem Solving Training (PST).
	Spring	METHODS FOR MINISTRY II (4 HOURS) & METHODS FOR MINISTRY II PRACTICUM (4 HOURS) The second course and practicum provide intensive training on mental health problems that are prevalent among veterans, service members and the broader community and continue exploration of interdisciplinary teamwork. Practicum focuses on application of EBPs.
YEAR 2 12 Credit Hours	Fall	METHODS FOR MINISTRY III (4 HOURS) & METHODS FOR MINISTRY III PRACTICUM (4 HOURS) 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; care over the lifespan; psychosocial and developmental formation; and suffering and resilience. Practicum focuses on application of EBPs.
	Spring	D.MIN. RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR I (4 HOURS) The final three semesters' seminars are taught by Vanderbilt Divinity School (VDS) faculty and focus on crafting the 45-60 page D.Min. project. Students use online modules (accessed asynchronously) created by VDS faculty that provide relevant theological content.
YEAR 3 8 Credit Hours	Fall	D.MIN. RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR II (4 HOURS) Students continue the seminar sequence while working individually and in consultation groups, with two faculty co-teachers. Faculty will lead students through conceiving, developing and completing the culminating project.
	Spring	D.MIN. RESEARCH PROJECT SEMINAR III (4 HOURS) Each project is organized around a problem the student has encountered in their chaplaincy practice, which the student then analyzes and addresses using what they are learning in the program. The project is drafted and refined through peer and faculty feedback.



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