

## Doctor of Ministry

### **DOCTOR of MINISTRY (DMIN)**

*Martin Sanders, D.Min, Director*

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree is the highest professional degree offered by Alliance Theological Seminary and Nyack College. The D.Min. constitutes an advanced professional degree at the doctoral level available to those seeking to enhance their ministry. "Thus, it is the purpose of the D.Min. degree to provide that level of knowledge, theoretical clarity, and competence of practice commensurate with the highest earned degree for the profession and practice of ministry."

#### **Purpose**

Today's world is experiencing the impact of globalization. Most evident in the urban contexts where diverse people rub shoulders and interact with each other in proximity and deal with the impact of mobilization, pluralism, and change, the effects of the globalized mindset need to be addressed by today's church. The purpose of the D. Min degree program is to enhance the practice of Christian ministry and mission through an advanced program for people with a M.Div (or its equivalent) who are engaged in ministerial leadership.

#### **Goals and Objectives**

The D.Min. degree program at ATS is designed:

- To enhance personal and ministry health
- To enhance qualitatively the professional comprehension and competence of ministerial leaders to build up the global kingdom of God
- To seek integration of a disciplined reflective practice of ministry with a theological and biblical base
- To provide a multi-denominational and multi-cultural adult learning experience

It includes both high academic standards and practical implementation. As an in-service program, students may complete the degree while remaining in ministry.

#### **Learning Outcomes**

Students who earn the Doctor of Ministry in Christian Leadership in the Global Context will:

1. Demonstrate a deep understanding of their **personal** and ministry strengths and weaknesses. [Evidenced in DML811, Spiritual Formation for Ministry, Learning Experience #4, Integrative paper.]
2. Demonstrate enhanced competency in **social/cultural** analysis for ministry in the global context. [Evidenced in Immersion Experience in Orientation]
3. Demonstrate an understanding and competency of leadership in the urban, global context. [Evidenced in overseas trip with Martin Sanders and some course assignments]
4. Demonstrate an advanced understanding of theology in relation to **spirituality** and **leadership**. [Spirituality part is evidenced in DML811, Learning Experience #2, Leadership Portrait]
5. Demonstrate a growing passion for God and ministry in His global Kingdom. [Evidenced in student's willingness to make sacrifices for God and for His Kingdom; this will be seen in overseas trip with Dr. Sanders and the Final DMin project]
6. Demonstrate competency in integrating personal, theological and leadership understandings in a **global, multi-cultural context**. [Evidenced in Final D.Min. project]

#### **Program Format**

The ATS D.Min. program is designed as a modular, cohort-based program with extensive independent work preceding and following each on-campus classroom experience. It also involves passing an oral qualifying examination prior to candidacy and presenting and defending a written, ministry-centered Final Doctoral Project.

The on-campus courses are offered as nine day intensive courses in January and July/August.

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Part one: Prior to the campus classroom experience, the student completes substantial required reading and written work; interaction with the professor occurs online.

Part two: The intensive campus-centered course component (nine days in length) involves course-related lectures, in- and after-class learning activities, and faculty and peer interaction. Excursions for interactive engagement with a variety of ministry settings and styles will be designed into this component. This part also includes the orientation, research methodology seminars, and the literature research and review seminar tailored specifically for the Final Doctoral Project.

Part three: Post-course assignments engage each student in a related ministry project with associated written assignments that apply the reading and classroom learning to their particular ministry context. Through this, the student demonstrates professional performance in light of the new learning. Student/faculty interaction occurs online.

### Modular Cohort Format

All program activities for the first two years of the program occur in a modular cohort format in order to create a cohesive learning community. The cohort, a stable group of 15-25 students from a variety of churches and denominations, together proceeds through orientation and the core courses and seminars over a two year period. Students may break from the cohort for the two elective courses the final year of their program but will often retain relationships until completion of the degree and beyond. The Director of the D.Min. program and Scholar-at-Large are considered to be active participants in each cohort. Teaching faculty will be involved for a scheduled period prior to, during, and following each on-campus module.

### Peer Learning/Engagement

Extended involvement in peer learning is a priority of the ATS D.Min. program. This is one reason why the relational cohort format has been chosen. During the intensive sessions/courses on campus, students will build relationships as they are expected to actively participate in dialog about the subjects they prepared prior to coming to the campus classroom. Students will encourage and aid each other in learning development through classroom and small group work. Regular interaction with each other through e-mail, eCollege, and other means is strongly encouraged between campus experiences—and may even be required. Students will also critique each other's thinking processes and work, particularly during the three seminars.

### Degree Requirements

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#### Coursework

DML 801 Orientation I

DML 802 Orientation II

#### *Core Courses*

DML 811 Spiritual Formation for Leadership

DML 812 Leadership Skills for Ministry

DML 813 Selecting & Developing New Leaders

DML 814 Effective Ministry in Today's Globalized Urban Environment

DML 871 Seminar I

DML 872 Seminar II

DML 873 Seminar III

#### *Spirituality Concentration*

DML 921 Following in the Steps of Spiritual Mentors

DML 922 Guiding Others in Their Spiritual Journey

#### *Global Outreach Concentration*

DML 925 Contemporary Models of Evangelism

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DML 926 Christian Communication for a New Generation  
DML 897 Oral Candidacy Qualifying Exam  
DML 994 Doctoral Project Stage I  
DML 995 Doctoral Project Stage II  
DML 996 Doctoral Project Stage III  
DML 997 Doctoral Project Stage IV  
DML 999 Final Doctoral Project  
DML 998 Doctoral Project Continuation

### **First Year – Stage 1: Assessing**

#### **Module One**

DML 801 Orientation I ..... 2  
DML 811 Spiritual Formation for Leadership ..... 4

#### **Module Two**

DML 802 Orientation II ..... 1  
DML 812 Leadership Skills for Ministry ..... 4  
DML 871 Seminar I ..... 1

### **Second Year – Stage 2: Addressing**

#### **Module One**

DML 813 Selecting & Developing New Leaders ..... 4  
DML 871 Seminar II ..... 1  
DML 994 Doctoral Project Stage I ..... 1

#### **Module Two**

DML 814 Effective Ministry in Today's Globalized Urban Environment.. 4  
DML 995 Doctoral Project Stage II..... 2  
DML 897 Oral Candidacy Qualifying Exam ..... 0

### **Third Year – Stage 3: Implementing**

#### **Module One**

Elective Course # 1 (DML 921 or DML 925) ..... 4  
DML 871 Seminar III ..... 1  
DML 996 Doctoral Project Stage III..... 1

#### **Module Two**

Elective Course # 2 (DML 922 or DML 926) ..... 4  
DML 997 Doctoral Project Stage IV..... 2  
DML 999 Final Doctoral Project..... 0