Overview
The Doctor of Ministry with special emphasis in Pastoral Care and Counseling prepares religious professionals to practice care and counseling at a high degree of competency and professionalism by:

• Integrating spirituality and counseling
• Improving the skills of effective counseling
• Sharpening research and reflective skills
• Facilitating personal growth
• Providing seasoned professional teachers in an atmosphere of dialogue between theory and practice.

This program is designed for professionals who serve or plan to serve in a context of specialized ministry such as chaplain, pastoral care specialist, pastoral counselor or pastors with a special focus on pastoral care. While rooted in the Christian tradition, this program is open to religious professionals across the spectrum of spiritual traditions. This program defines “religious professionals” broadly, as including those ordained, commissioned, endorsed or otherwise set aside by their faith group as authorized to do ministry on their behalf. This program may also be appropriate to persons already established as a licensed mental health professional, who wish to deepen their understanding of the integration of spirituality and psychotherapy.

Curriculum

Units of Study
The Doctor of Ministry with emphasis in Pastoral Care and Counseling comprises 30 semester units of course work. This total includes 12 semester units of dissertation/project research and writing.

Course Requirements
Students in the Pastoral Care and Counseling track are required to take 3 PCC core courses and 3 elective seminars. Courses in the PCC emphasis are generally offered in the summer term.

The required core courses are:
• Dynamics of Loss, Grief and Trauma
• Multicultural Pastoral Care
• Theology and Theories of Pastoral Care and Counseling

Students may select their elective seminars from the following PCC courses:
• Ethics and Professional Issues in Pastoral & Counseling
• Faith and Counseling throughout the Life Cycle
• Pastoral Counseling with Couples and Families
• Addictions and Spirituality
• Groups and Group Leadership, or
• Courses offered in other DMin. tracks appropriate to the student’s D/P topic or area of interest.

Dissertation/Project Seminar:
This not-for-credit workshop is designed to introduce basic research methods for social analysis, help students to define their area of interest D/P topic, and prepare for the D/P process. It is offered in two levels, 
• D/P Seminar I, normally taken in the first year of course work
• D/P Seminar II, normally taken as the student is completing course work and is beginning work on their D/P topic proposal and D/P design proposal.

Course Descriptions

How People Change: Theories of Counseling and Psychotherapy (DMPS-6051)
In this course, we will examine the major theories of personality and counseling, as background theory and as having practical implications for our work as pastoral caregivers and counselors. The primary theme of this comprehensive review is what constitutes change. How do people change? What blocks change? What facilitates change? Our effort will result in each student building an integrated theory of pastoral counseling and a theology of change.

Dynamics of Loss, Grief, Trauma in Pastoral Care and Counseling (DMPS-6041)
This course explores the psychological, relational and theological dynamics of loss, grief and trauma. We will place these subjects in the larger theoretical contexts of attachment theory and trauma theory. We will give special attention to the growing incidence of trauma in modern life, and the corresponding body of literature that informs how we understand the dynamics of trauma. We will then explore the practical implications of this theory for pastors, chaplains and counselors who are seeking to help people and families in pain. Attention will also be given to the theological understandings of loss, grief and trauma in the context of clinical work.

Contemporary Trends in Pastoral Counseling (DMPS-6044)
This course will examine some of the emerging trends in pastoral counseling—issues that impact every pastor increasingly in parish ministry and in the specialized ministries of pastoral care and counseling. Many of these emerging issues are related to the dawning of the postmodern age with all of its implications. Narrative therapy is certainly one expression of the post-modern age, as is the trend toward short-term treatment approaches. In this increasingly diverse world, we will also examine the multicultural perspective on counseling and care-giving and the implications of a multicultural perspective for the traditional theories of pastoral counseling.

Assessment, Diagnosis and Clinical Theology (DMPS-6105)
This course will review the major issues and approaches to the assessment and diagnosis of psychological and relational problems from a pastoral perspective. We will look in detail at the prevailing diagnostic scheme based on the DSM-IV. We will attempt to reflect on various diagnoses from theological perspectives and suggest ways that the DSM-IV system could be augmented by a spiritual axis. We will look at several of the more common assessment tools used by pastoral counselors today, and give students opportunities to become thoroughly acquainted with at least one tool. We will also dig deeply into how we understand some of the more common psychological problems—depression, anxiety, obsessions and impulse control problems—from both psychological and theological perspectives. This course will teach students how to think theologically about psychological issues.

Addictions and Spirituality (DMPS-6060)
This course addresses current understandings of the description, etiology and treatment of addictive disorders including, but not limited to, addictions to legal and illegal substances such as alcohol and drugs, as well as addictions to various activities. Is there such a thing as an addictive personality? What is the spiritual dimension of addiction diseases and how can pastoral caregivers and counselors play a critical role in helping people overcome their addiction difficulties?

**Faith and Counseling throughout the Life Cycle (DMPS-6049)**

We will study the contributions of key contemporary developmental theorists, looking at the needs, developmental tasks, and role of faith at each life stage. We will give particular attention to the adult life stages. We will explore the dynamics of rituals and how to effectively use rituals in therapeutic ways. We will explore the opportunities for pastoral care at various stages of the life cycle. This course also includes an exploration of issues in the field of psychology of religion, particular such questions as: What is a healthy faith? What is a toxic faith? How does faith develop over the life cycle?

**Pastoral Counseling with Couples and Families (DMPS-6055)**

This course provides a basic framework for understanding and reflecting on couples and family systems in theory and practice. It will focus on two primary models of family work: communication theory and Bowen family therapy. Attention will be given to couple dynamics and models of couple interventions, and also attention to family dynamics and models of family interventions. The genogram is a tool for making assessments with individuals, couples, and families in pastoral counseling. We will practice using the genogram in class, learning to deepen understandings of persons in relationship.

**Multicultural Pastoral Care (DMPS-6050)**

In this course we will be exploring issues of culture and social location and how those issues influence psychological and spiritual well-being, and the helping process itself. The course seeks to provide students with a way of understanding people within their cultural context. By cultural context, this course means to include gender, age, class, ethnicity, race, sexual orientation, cognitive and physical characteristics, and religious orientation. By understanding the cultural factors operative in the counseling relationship, students will be better equipped to serve in multicultural settings.

**Groups and Leadership in Congregational Settings (DMPS-6065)**

This course will introduce the subject of the full range of group work in the life of a congregation or counseling clinic. We will examine the basics of group dynamics, and assist students to understand the dynamics of group process, so that they can be more effective group leaders/facilitators. In particular, we will explore how a pastoral counselor can create and use support and therapy groups to augment ministry with persons. We will explore what constitutes effective pastoral leadership--- in particular, a discussion of conflict management and conflict resolution techniques as applied to congregational/group conflicts. This course will also touch on a systematic way of understanding congregational health and function, with related implications for pastoral care.

**Ethics and Professional Issues in Pastoral Care**

This seminar will focus on the variety of ethical and professional issues that contemporary pastoral care specialists, chaplains, pastoral counselors, and congregational clergy, need to navigate if they are to effectively serve others. We will give special attention to: medical ethics and clergy misconduct issues and some of the current court decisions that impinge on the
practice of ministry in a secular state. We will also give attention to the special challenges of serving as a pastoral care specialist within larger institutions, like hospitals, military, corporations and ecclesiological structures. While the seminar will use many case examples, students will be encouraged develop a comprehensive theory/theology of ethics, informed by but also informing the various contexts in which the student serves.

Dissertation/Project

The Dissertation/ Project is the signature assignment for the DMin. degree. The purpose of the D/P is to give the student the opportunity to explore one aspect of their practice of ministry in depth. The dissertation aspect of the D/P will involve the student in using the combined resources of psychology and theology to study a particular subject. The project aspect of the D/P will engage the student in designing, implementing and evaluating a pilot project that may lead to developing an innovative resource or practice in ministry.

Admissions Requirements

Basic admission requirements include

- a three- or four-year Master of Divinity degree (or its equivalent) with a 3.0 GPA or above from an accredited university;
- ecclesiastical endorsement for one’s ministry;
- at least one unit of clinical pastoral education (CPE) or its equivalent; and
- at least three years of experience in some form of ministry.

All applicants for whom English is a second language must pass the TOEFL with a score of 550 or better prior to admission.

Some equivalencies to these admission requirements may be accepted, if the equivalency fulfills the same basic functions.

Application Deadlines

The deadline for filing all application papers, including references, transcripts, personal narratives and a sample of scholarly writing, is April 1 for Summer admission and June 1 for Fall admission. Applications will be acted upon as they are received.

Tuition

Tuition for the 2015-2016 academic year is $1675 per 3-unit seminar.

Tuition for students who have completed their course work is $450 per semester (Fall & Spring) for DMin. Supervision.

Tuition rates may be adjusted on an annual basis. Tuition does not include the cost of books, transportation or housing.