



## **Doctor of Ministry in Spiritual Care Education and Leadership**

*The following provides a brief description of the DMin Program. A complete description of program policies and procedures appears in the DMin manual.*

### **Program Description**

Union Theological Seminary offers the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree in Spiritual Care Education and Leadership for students who want to become Certified Educators to teach Clinical Pastoral Education programs, to demonstrate competences for Clinical Educators who want to be certified as National Faculty, or to fill positions of leadership in religious or social service or social justice agencies.

The Union DMin program offers advanced study in the disciplines of education and leadership in spiritual care with pathways in one of the following:

1. Association of Clinical Pastoral Education (ACPE) Certified Educator Candidates seeking certification by ACPE (or by another professional chaplaincy organization).
2. ACPE Certified Educators seeking certification as National Faculty.
3. Spiritual Care Educators and leaders seeking positions within religious or larger community organizations.

The structure in Union's program encourages interdisciplinary cross-fertilization and "mutual illumination" that is intended to generate clinical scholarship. This structure also equips graduates with the conceptual versatility and expanded teaching competency that will serve to optimize their employability in a competitive market.

The interdisciplinary nature of the Union DMin program is further enhanced by the two-week August Intensive Residency in which all students participate. By attending the Residency, one cultivates a sense of the ongoing dialogue between Theology and Spiritual Care that marks contemporary religious leadership. One also gets a feel for the exciting dynamics that being a part of the Union community can generate.

Typically, the two on-line classes have been held on Thursday evenings in fall and spring beginning at 6 PM and 8 PM Eastern time for an hour and a half each. (Note:

This may change if the students all agree and the faculty can accommodate a different day and time.)

## **Pathways**

Applicants to the DMin program identify and describe the rationale for their choice of the pathway of specialization in their application essay.

DMin students will have one advisor, pursue course work, and write a DMin project in an area in a way that integrates their courses and studies into the research. Students are expected to master the subject matter that will qualify them for leadership and teaching in their desired pathway. An oral presentation, either in person or by Zoom, is expected at the end of one's studies.

## **Admissions Requirements**

Applicants to the DMin program are expected to demonstrate the ability to do graduate level studies in all areas of the curriculum.

The typical academic requirement for admission is a Master of Divinity degree from an ATS-accredited institution or the equivalent. The guidelines promulgated by the Association of Professional Chaplains will serve to help determine the equivalent degree and studies. Thus, Jews, Buddhists, Muslims, Humanists and other spiritual traditions are encouraged to apply to the program with the understanding that there are acceptable varied pathways to meet this requirement.

The typical clinical requirement is four units of Clinical Pastoral Education from an accredited CPE center. ACPE guidelines and standards are the generally accepted model for such a program. Students with other clinical experience may request equivalency. That will be granted on a case-by-case basis after material to document that experience is submitted.

## **Residency Requirements**

Each year of the program there will be a two-week residency in August in New York on the campus of Union Theological Seminary. Two courses are offered each year, a two-credit course and a one-credit course. Presently, housing is not available, but creative students have found the local universities and colleges and hostels can be explored to arrange local accommodations.

## **Course Credits**

This is a hybrid degree which includes the two-week Residency each year and two online courses each Fall and Spring semesters. Students will complete 36 credits in course work and 6 credits for their DMin project for a total of 42 credit hours.

No special technical skills are required for on-line courses, as the courses use Zoom for video conferencing for synchronous sessions once a week and Canvas as a learning management system for the assigning and submitting of course material.

## **Program Goals and Outcomes**

The goals of the DMin program reflect the mission and vision of the Seminary in general and purposes of the doctoral program in particular. The learning outcomes identify advanced and integrated knowledge, skills, and competencies that a graduate of the Union DMin program is expected to be able to demonstrate.

GOAL I. To enable students to acquire comprehensive knowledge of the disciplines of spiritual care education and leadership. Students will develop an expert knowledge of the specific topic of their research and of the subject matter of the DMin project. They will be able to do research in that area.

Outcomes:

1. Demonstrates comprehensive knowledge in and a general mastery of their particular area of specialization.
2. Demonstrates knowledge in the specific areas of spiritual care education and leadership.

GOAL II. To provide students with the skills needed to engage in research, writing, learning, and teaching in their area of expertise; and to contribute to the body of knowledge in the field through research and publications.

Outcomes:

1. Demonstrates a capacity to produce original, publication-worthy research and writing that contributes to the knowledge and advancement of the field.
2. Demonstrates an ability to teach effectively in Clinical Pastoral Education and in the religious community

GOAL III. To engage students in a sustained exploration of the connections and interactions between the disciplines of spiritual care and modern theological education and leadership.

Outcomes:

1. Demonstrates knowledge of the subject matter and methods of theological studies and spiritual care.
2. Demonstrates an ability to engage critically in interdisciplinary discourse.

GOAL IV. To cultivate in students a commitment to communicate their knowledge and to interpret the subject matter of their discipline with sensitivity to particular academic, religious, and cultural contexts.

Outcomes:

1. Demonstrates an ability to interpret and to communicate their knowledge for different cultures and publics.

## **Completion of the Program**

Students can finish the DMin program in three to five years. They are expected to finish within seven years. Extensions beyond that time, while not encouraged, may be granted may be granted for one year at a time by petitioning the Academic Office.

- **Assessment**

Assessment of student learning and progress through the program is a continuous and integral part of the doctoral program from inception to completion. Students regularly communicate with the program director to review course work and student individual goals.

## **The Union DMin Graduate**

Graduates of Union's DMin program are expected to possess the competencies outlined in the learning outcomes;

- Comprehensive knowledge and research, writing, and teaching competency in spiritual care education and leadership;
- Knowledge of and an ability to participate in the dialogue between spiritual care and religious studies;
- An ability to communicate effectively within diverse contexts.

All of this will be achieved in a context of pluralistic interchange among the many varied interests represented at Union.

## **DMin Tuition and Scholarships**

Tuition for the DMin is presently \$705 per credit hour. Need based scholarship and/or tuition support may be available.

**For more information about the program or questions, please contact Melina Rudman, Interim DMin Coordinator at [mrudman@uts.columbia.edu](mailto:mrudman@uts.columbia.edu).**