



AGST ALLIANCE
Asia Graduate School of Theology Alliance



EAST
East Asia School of Theology

**DMin in Leadership
Courses**
Offered by AGST Alliance & East Asia School of Theology

Foundation Courses

Foundation Course #1: Introduction to DMin Learning and Research Practices

Module description

This Foundation Class is designed to prepare students for their academic journey in the Doctor of Ministry program. Students will work on honing the essential skills of doctoral work such as the skills of critical reading, critical thinking and critical writing. Students also develop skills in the digital learning and research environment necessary for successful doctoral-level study. This is a skill-based module and will incorporate practical work on each of the skill sets.

Foundation Course #2: Foundations of Theological Reflection

Module Description

This course is built upon the first Foundation Course. The course is designed to bridge theory and practice and will further develop research and writing skills introduced in the first course. The course equips students to think theologically about ministry praxis. Students will consider how to integrate Scripture and contextualize as part of theological reflection about their ministry contexts.

DMin Courses

(The following list does not indicate the sequence in which courses will be offered)

Christian Thinking and Ministry Practice

Module Description

This module is designed to enable pastors and leaders in Christian ministries to reflect theologically on the nature of their ministry and the issues that arise out of it, especially in the Asian context. The module brings together three strands: the nature of vocational ministry, approaches to reflecting Christianly within that calling, and biblical hermeneutics as the foundation for thinking theologically. Consideration of the role of culture and systems thinking about the church and other organisations are included in this.

****Theologizing in Church and Ministry**

Module Description

This module advances students' professional development across diverse ministry contexts – including local congregations and parachurch organizations – by cultivating a God-centered reasoning process. Viewing all specialized ministries as vital expressions of the broader Church universal ("God's household... the pillar and foundation of the truth," 1 Tim 3:15), the course draws on Theology, Ecclesiology, and Practical Theology to develop the skill of "theologizing" – bridging God's truth (*theos*) with human

understanding (*logos*). Rather than focusing solely on administrative tactics or static doctrines, students will leverage their prior experiences in church and parachurch settings to critically reflect on their praxis and navigate the evolving challenges of Christian ministry today.

****Kingdom, Church and Society**

Module Description

This doctoral module equips leaders to fulfill God's kingdom mission by examining how the Church universal is expressed through both local congregations and parachurch organizations. Integrating biblical, theological, and sociological perspectives, the course explores how these distinct ministries forms engage contemporary culture and address societal issues. The student will articulate a robust theology of kingdom mission and cultural engagement, culminating in a context-specific project addressing a challenge in their local church or parachurch environment.

Biblical and Ministry Perspectives of Leadership

Module Description

What guides the leader's inner life when others are not watching? How does the leader's inner life shape the way they lead, care for, and develop others? How do ministry leaders build environments of pastoral feeding and care that contribute to the healthy development of emerging leaders? This course is an interdisciplinary study of relevant biblical passages, pastoral theology, and leadership theory. Students will further develop their skills of biblical exegesis, doctoral research, and contextual praxis as they address these issues.

Ministry Leadership: Issues and Challenges

Module Description

For the Christian leader, an unexamined life is dangerous terrain and opens them to superficiality and pride. This course focuses on the leader and their self-examination related to three areas: (1) Their posture in ministry relationships and practice. (2) Their cultural context and how that shapes leadership perspectives and praxis. (3) Their reflexivity in making decisions and bringing about transformation. This module is designed to provide the ministry leader with a greater systemic awareness of their part in the construction of an ethical, affirming and effective organizational culture.

Education for Faith Formation

Module Description

Designed specifically for ministry leaders, this module addresses the educational mandate established by the Great Commission: making disciples by teaching believers to obey Christ's commands. Grounded in this biblical call, the course equips leaders to look beyond traditional classroom models and examine how every ministry initiative functions as an agent of spiritual and character formation. By integrating key educational theories with biblical principles, the module guides leaders in evaluating the implicit and explicit formation happening within their organizations. The student will analyze how learning frameworks, organizational practices, and formational strategy work together to foster deep spiritual growth and Christlike maturity in those they serve.

Approaches and Practices for Ministry-based Research

Module Description

This module is designed to prepare students to research, write and defend a ministry-project DMin dissertation. Students will be introduced to all the phases of the DMin

contextually applied ministry project dissertation process. This includes getting started on a research design, a literature review, data collection and analysis, presentation and writing the final product. This is a skill-based module and will incorporate practical work on each of the skill sets. Time will be given to familiarize students with the use of electronic databases for ministry project research

Dissertation Workshops

The periodic workshops provide structured academic support and a collaborative community of practice for the DMin cohort to navigate the challenges of writing a dissertation alongside full-time ministry demands. By combining faculty consultations, technical instruction, coaching, peer review, and work-in-progress presentations with dedicated writing time, the workshops equip candidates to refine their research, overcome obstacles, and maintain steady progress toward degree completion.

** The DMin Leadership program includes one of two modules: *Theologizing in Church and Ministry* or *Kingdom, Church and Society*. The final decision about the module offered for each cohort will be made by the DMin Committee based on the availability of instructor(s).

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