

## Frequently Asked Questions

### St. Mary's Ecumenical Institute Doctor of Ministry

#### Costs / Finances

**How much will it cost?** \$16,500 is the total program price for those starting this academic year (2019-2020) and finishing within 4 years.

**Are deferred payment plans available?** Yes. (Typically 33 equalized payments.)

**Are scholarships available?** No. (A need-based extended pay plan will be offered, subject to available institutional funding, to students with demonstrated financial need.)

**Is the Ecumenical Institute's partnership matching program available?** No, but institutional partners are welcomed to support DMin students.

**Are there hidden costs?** No. You will need to buy your own books and cover any research expenses, and pay the graduation fee when you finish. We are providing you about 25 free meals during the program.

**Can I pay as I go?** Sure. Some prices will increase annually (tuition and student services fees), other prices will increase ever few years (registration fees).

#### Curriculum and Courses

**Does the DMin have a focus?** No, except for the focus of your ministry project. This is not a Doctor of Ministry *in fill in the blank*. Each student focuses on their own situation.

**How many classes for the DMin?** 6 (you will also do 3 ministry modules and a project)

**Are there different classes to choose / are there electives?** Not at this time. All students take the same six classes.

**Are the classes online?** No, not really. Classes will use our course management system (Canvas) to provide students with documents, but there are not online class sessions or posting requirements. However, there are separate online modules that teach ministry research.

**What are 'Ministry Research Modules'?** These 3 sequential learning modules teach you how to do ministry research and develop your proposal for the ministry project.

Module 1 is fully online, and you complete it during your first year of study.

Module 2 is fully online, and you complete it during your second year of study.

Module 3 is hybrid, beginning online and ending in person.

**Will I be in a DMin cohort?** No. Because different students start in different terms, you will not have a closed cohort. You'll be enriched by studying with some of the same students in every course you take, and also with new students in each course.

**Who teaches in the DMin program?** Look for the designation "D.Min. Faculty" on our Ecumenical Institute [Faculty page](#).

**How does the curriculum integrate head and heart?** Each of the 6 courses ends with brief formational reflection session (about 30 minutes), a guided practice of integrating course learning into one's understanding of self, community, and ministry. Each year DMin students also participate in an afternoon 'micro-retreat,' scheduled to precede an evening class session.

## Schedule and Calendar

**When are courses offered?** Fall, Spring, Summer are the DMin terms.

Fall and Spring courses meet once a month on Thursday evening+Friday (3 times)

Summer courses typically meet for 4 consecutive days.

**Is a DMin term the same as a semester?** Basically. DMin terms give you 4 months to work on your course, from preparatory work before intensive class meetings to turning in the final assignment. Fall DMin term is Sept.-Dec. Spring DMin term is Jan.-April. Summer DMin term is May-August.

**Do you have to start in a particular month?** No, you can begin DMin study at any point. If you start at the beginning of a DMin term, you start with the appropriate course. If you start in the middle of a DMin term, you can begin with Ministry Research Module 1.

**What if I need more time?** You have 6 years to complete all DMin requirements. So if you need to take a term off from study, you can. (You pay additional annual fees for years 5 and 6, however.)

## Admissions requirements

**What does “MDiv equivalence” mean?** That you have enough masters level coursework (at least 72 credits), and appropriate coursework in all three major areas of divinity (Bible, theology, ministry). (Our full answer is available online.)

**What does ‘backfill’ mean?** Taking additional masters credits to achieve MDiv equivalence. (This might be because you need more credits to reach 72 and/or because there are major areas of divinity where you don’t have enough coursework).