

VIRGINIA THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY DOCTORAL PROGRAMS



EMPOWERING FAITHFUL LEADERS

- ▶ **Doctor of Ministry
(D.Min.)**
- ▶ **Doctor of Educational Ministry
(D.Ed.Min.)**



Strengthen Your Leadership

You have valuable experience in ministry. We offer coursework and a leading team of faculty to facilitate new learning. The doctoral programs at the Virginia Theological Seminary provide unparalleled opportunities to transform ministry and leadership for the mission of God. We integrate your lived experience with rigorous learning to shape leaders who are building the church of the future. Faculty in our interdenominational program are both scholars and practitioners who draw from multiple disciplines to fully integrate learning and practice.

We believe that God's Spirit is ever enlivening the Church, both through careful study of our sacred tradition and through new words spoken by the Spirit in our contemporary contexts. Through fostering wise, skillful, and faithful leaders, we empower the church to hear anew the calling of God's Spirit.

2 The D.Min. program has stretched and enriched me—in heart, soul, mind, and strength. It has revitalized my passion for ministry and my capacity to live into my vocation.

~Dawna Wall ('13), Pastoral Associate
Christ Church Cathedral, Ottawa, Canada

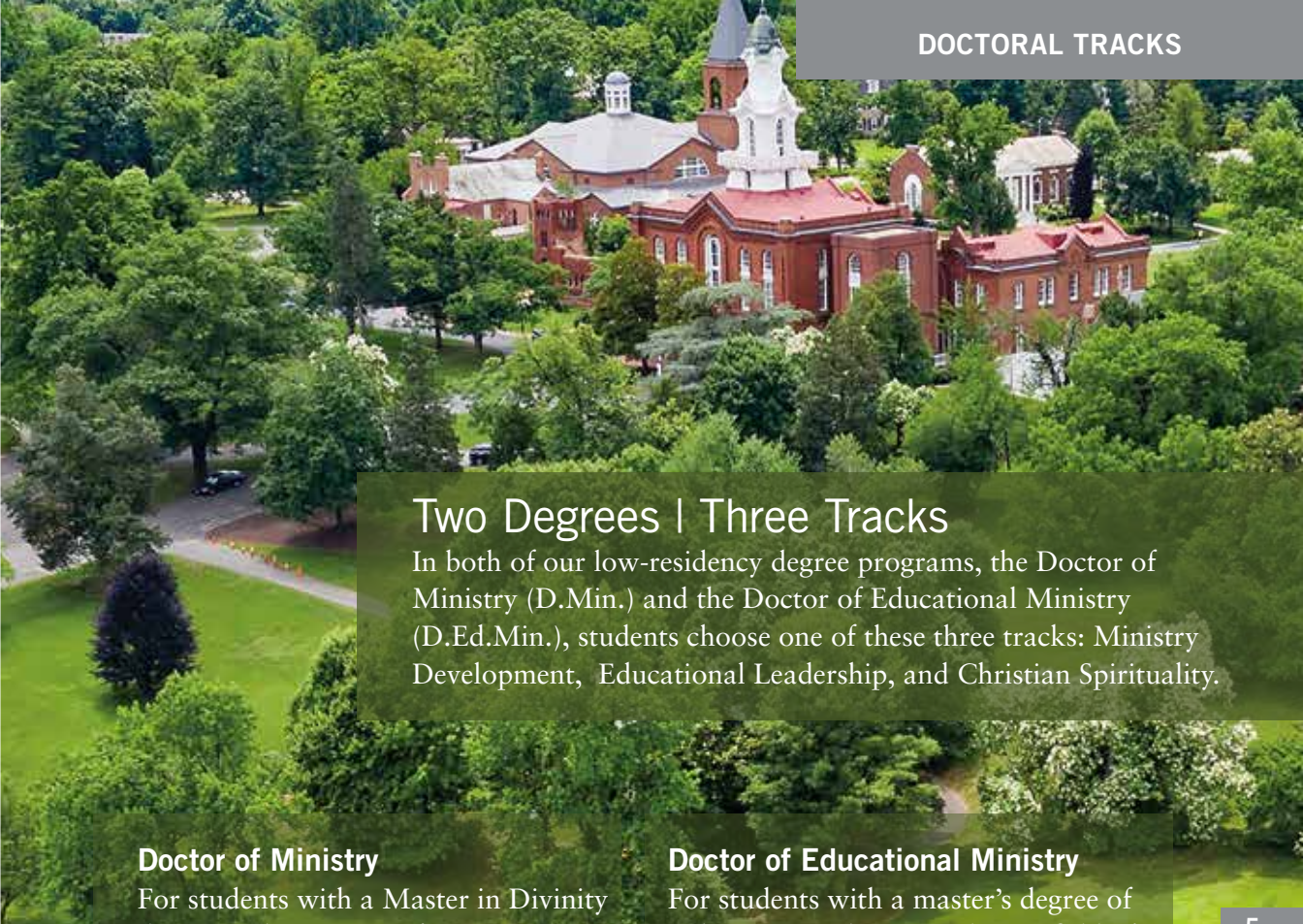
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Context Focused Doctoral Programs

Our doctoral programs begin with the question, “What vision does God give us for transforming lives, communities, and cultures?” Because every baptized Christian carries out a distinct expression of that vision, we offer varying program tracks oriented to varying ministries. Each track puts theological and biblical resources into conversation with developmental, organizational, and social scientific learning.



Two Degrees | Three Tracks

In both of our low-residency degree programs, the Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) and the Doctor of Educational Ministry (D.Ed.Min.), students choose one of these three tracks: Ministry Development, Educational Leadership, and Christian Spirituality.

Doctor of Ministry

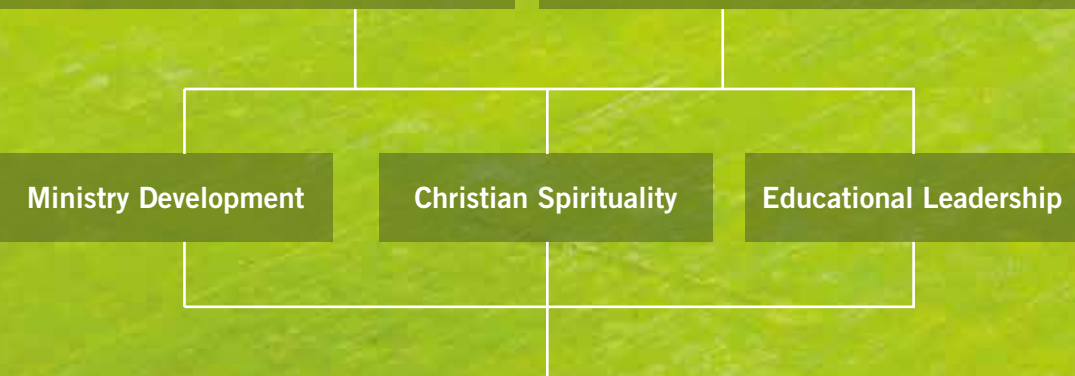
For students with a Master in Divinity degree and 3-5 years of experience in ministry.

40 credits: Degree takes four years including three residencies followed by thesis writing.

Doctor of Educational Ministry

For students with a master’s degree of at least 48 credits in a relevant field of study and 3-5 years of experience.

50 credits: Degree takes five years including four residencies followed by thesis writing.



Students across each track complete case studies and take elective classes together. Regardless of your concentration, you’ll be able to learn from and with classmates from an array of contexts.



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Transform lives and communities in witness to the Living Christ

D.Min./D.Ed.Min. in Ministry Development

This program focuses on building and nurturing Christian communities for the sake of common mission and witness. It strengthens pastoral leaders in congregational, missionary, military, or other public ministry settings.

Students focus especially on leadership development, mission and evangelism, and building community.

Shape cultures of learning that transform lives and communities

D.Min./D.Ed.Min. in Educational Leadership

This program empowers educational and organizational leadership in independent and religiously affiliated schools, universities, and education-oriented institutions. The program helps educational leaders hone their capacities to form and transform young lives, working creatively with parents, peers, and the public to shape cultures committed to God's transforming work in the world.

Students focus especially on Christian formation, transforming communities of learning, and leadership development.



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Transform individual lives and their relationship with God

D.Min./D.Ed.Min. in Christian Spirituality

This track deepens the spiritual leadership and ministry of pastoral leaders serving in congregations, health care settings, and a variety of other ministries. Through exploring an array of Christian spiritual traditions—drawing from biblical, apostolic, contemplative, and contemporary resources—this degree focuses on the transformation of individual lives and the consequent enrichment of Christian community and witness.

Students focus especially on cultivated prayerful discernment, learning spiritual practices, and interpreting the wisdom of Christian spirituality.



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Program Requirements

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PREREQUISITES

- Master in Divinity or its equivalent in education and experience
- Three or more years of related experience in ministry and leadership (e.g. congregations, chaplaincy, teaching, missions, spiritual direction)

DOCTOR OF EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY PREREQUISITES

- Master's degree in a discipline related to D.Ed.Min. studies (e.g. education, organizational behavior, public administration, social work, theology)
- Three or more years of related experience in educational ministry and leadership (e.g. teaching, administration, chaplaincy, diaconal ministry)
- Active member of a congregation for at least six years

COURSEWORK AND THESIS

D.Min. students complete pre-thesis coursework in just over two years, including three intensive summer residencies lasting three weeks. D.Ed. Min. students complete pre-thesis coursework in just over three years across four summer residencies. The residencies occur each year during the last two weeks of June and the first week of July.

Classes consist of two types. *Seminar courses* follow a hybrid learning model, combining online education with in-class time during summer residencies. *Online integrative courses* entail specific engagement with a ministry context in conversation with both theology and social sciences.

The capstone of all our doctoral programs is the thesis, a substantive work of action-reflection scholarship based upon rigorous examination of a ministry context and robust engagement with academic disciplines. Students are expected to complete the thesis in two years.

For me, [earning a D.Min. at VTS] has been a cornucopia of God's love and presence in Christian ministry development, reflected through a faculty dedicated to transforming leadership with cohorts committed to emulating Christ's examples of mission in community.

~Anne Fredericks Cooper ('10), Christian Education Consultant
Episcopal Diocese of Liberia, Monrovia, Liberia



Welcome Home

Each summer, our doctoral students gather for three weeks of study and reflection. The beautiful 88-acre campus of VTS provides a place set apart from the demands of full-time ministry to focus on learning and enrichment.

The summer residencies have three core aspects, consistent with VTS's ethos: learning, worshiping, and living in community.

Students form lasting relationships with fellow students in their cohort and across varying doctoral tracks.



The VTS D.Min. in Ministry Development was my theological home away from home for five years. I began the program as I began a new ministry. The residencies provided true community with fellow students and faculty.

~Michael Ciba ('10) Valley Northwest Regional Minister
Connecticut Conference of the UCC, Watertown, Connecticut



Applying to VTS Doctoral Programs

Information and application materials can be found at www.vts.edu/doctor.

The deadline to apply to the doctoral programs at VTS is January 10. Students begin online coursework in April before their first summer residency.

Keeping Your Education Affordable

Current tuition, fees, and room and board rates can be found found at www.vts.edu/doctor.

Virginia Theological Seminary is committed to making doctoral education affordable for students. In addition to encouraging you to seek continuing education funds from your school or parish, the program awards scholarships to deserving students from the following sources:

Context Grants offer up to one-third the cost of tuition. These grants prioritize minority applicants and those serving in small congregations.

The Käthe and Milton Crum Doctor of Ministry Scholarship Fund is a merit-based scholarship for students of extraordinary promise.

The Hortenstine Doctor of Ministry Endowment Fund is designated for those engaged in ministries of teaching, chaplaincy, and administration in Episcopal Schools.

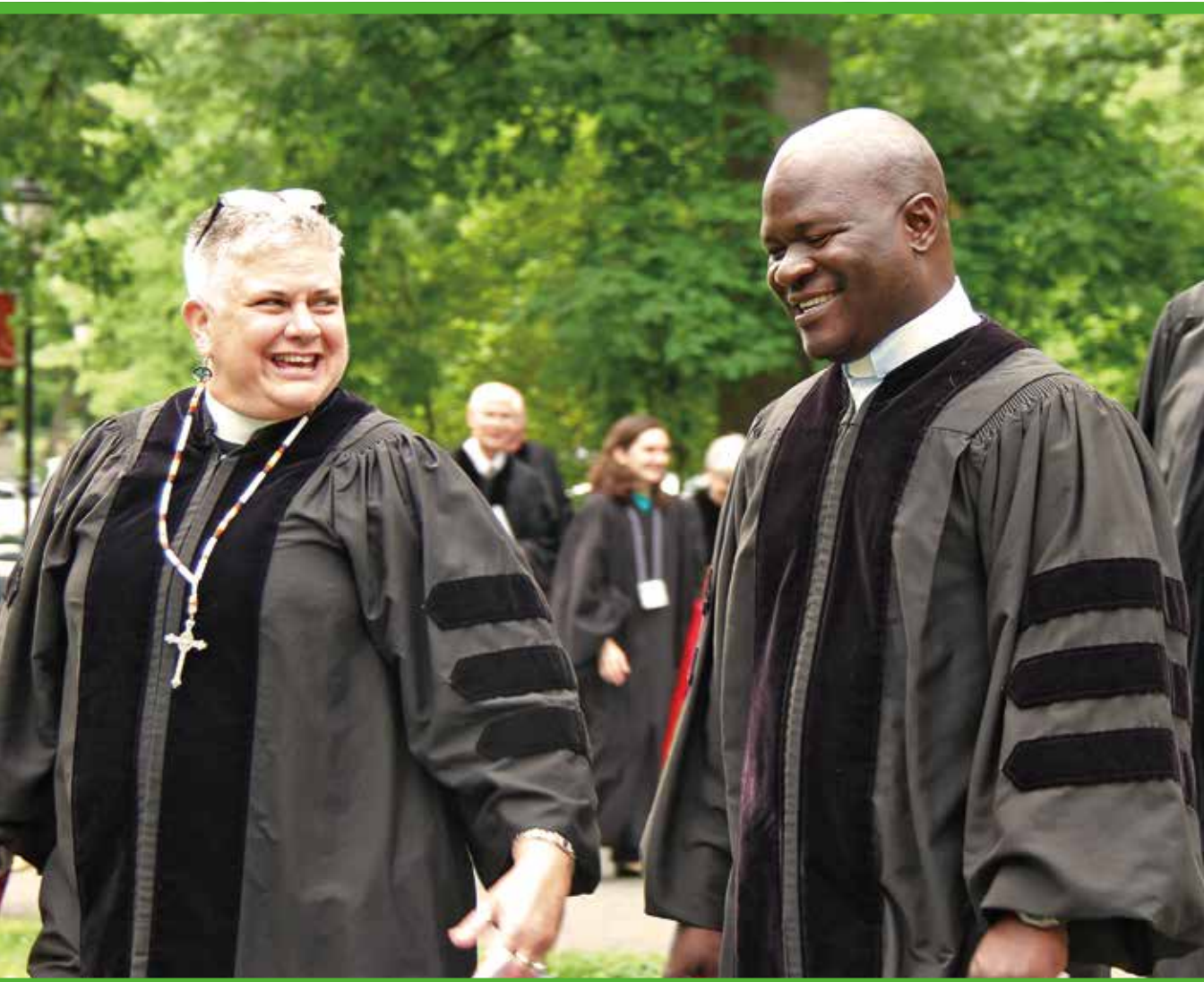
The Janet Maguire Scholarship Fund supports lay education for both master's level and doctoral students.

The Jo-Ann Bishop Scholarship Fund provides scholarships for both lay and ordained clergy for continuing education.

The Doctor of Ministry Program is a transformative opportunity to work collegially toward strengthening of skills and scholarship, and deepening of passion and perspective. The benefits to ministry are many and the personal growth is significant.

~Lisa Barrowclough ('09), School Chaplain
St. Mark's Episcopal Church and School, Palm Beach Gardens, Florida





For more information, visit www.vts.edu/doctor
or email admissions@vts.edu.



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