

We want to take this opportunity to introduce you to Erskine Seminary's Doctor of Ministry program. I am the Director of the program and have been associated with it since its inception in the mid 1980's.

Our program is a 36-hour program. Of these 36 hours, 30 hours are course work. The program culminates in the project/dissertation at the end for which you receive six hours of credit. We have two Foundations courses (SD 01: Models of Ministry and SD 02: Acts of Ministry) which are required of all students. Students who have not had two or more units of CPE are also required to take one additional course (SD 03: Interpersonal Skills for Ministry). The rest of the course work consists of electives. The electives are divided into Norms, Functions, and Contexts courses. The only requirement regarding electives is that you take one elective from each of these three areas.

Our program is generalist in nature, but you are able to specialize by your elective choices and especially in your project/dissertation. You are assigned a project/dissertation advisor early in the program. This advisor will supervise your project/dissertation. It is important for you to begin conversations with your advisor early in your program so that you can spend the necessary time to develop your plan for the project/dissertation.

This July, you will be with us for three weeks. During these three weeks, we will offer the two Foundations courses plus one elective. Each class will be offered in a one-week intensive format. You will receive the course syllabi and textbooks well in advance of the meeting dates, and there will be some reading and/or writing required of you prior to your arrival. Most of the assignments for these three courses will be due after July. Usually, the last assignment is due around November 1. When you return in January for three weeks, you will take three elective courses. These two intensive sessions (July and January) will enable you to complete 18 hours (the two Foundations courses and 12 hours of electives). The remaining 12 hours of your course work will be transferred in from your CPE.

As you well know, there are many Doctor of Ministry programs in the country. One of the things we have maintained since our program's beginning is an intentional focus on the practice of ministry. We have been working with military chaplains in our Doctor of Ministry program at Fort Jackson for the last ten years. We are aware of some of the unique features of ministry in the military and we try to respond to them in our course offerings. In our program, we are committed to pushing students intellectually but more than anything else we want to help students become better ministers. We thank you for considering our program. If I can be of any further help to you, please do not hesitate to contact me at (864) 379-8883 or [melton@erskine.edu](mailto:melton@erskine.edu).

In Christ,

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