

# HAMPTON UNIVERSITY SCHOOL *of* RELIGION

*Darrell K. Williams, Hampton University President*

WHERE SCHOLARSHIP IS MINISTRY



Pending approval by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

# DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

**INFORMING YOUR  
THEOLOGY**

**ENRICHING YOUR  
MINISTRY**

**BLESSING YOUR  
LIFE**



## **Doctor of Ministry - Pastoral Leadership and Congregational Development (DMin)**

Thank you for your interest in the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree program at Hampton University. This booklet includes course listings and brief program descriptions.

Individuals admitted in the Doctor of Ministry program in Pastoral Leadership and Congregational Development will successfully complete 45 credit hours above the Master's degree. The Doctor of Ministry degree builds upon the Master of Divinity degree and focuses on preparing individuals for pastoral and religious leadership in congregations, communities, and other faith settings. Courses in this program are 8-weeks in length, with the student typically completing four courses over the course of a semester, one following another. Each 8-week course requires the same number of hours of engagement as a 16-week course, assuring comparability in rigor, breadth, depth of content, and learning outcomes.

This expanded university-based program of religious and theological study is undergirded by the larger academic community of Hampton University as a comprehensive research institution. In addition, communities of faith along with other diverse settings and organizations will serve as hands-on laboratories and teaching sites for supervised internships as a part of field education, and practical experiences in pastoral leadership and congregational development.

# DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

## Pastoral Leadership and Congregational Development

The Doctor of Ministry (DMin) degree program is designed for senior leaders with at least three years of pastoral experience. This degree program will provide congregational leaders with necessary scholarship and analytical skills needed to respond to the dynamics, challenges, and trends affecting our nation, world, and the church universal. Doctor of Ministry students will have multiple opportunities to explore existing practices, experiment with, and create new strategies for developing vital thriving faith communities and congregations.

FIRST YEAR					
FALL COURSES		CREDITS	SPRING COURSES		CREDITS
REL 700	Introduction to Graduate Online Learning	1	REL 713	The Missional Church	3
REL 701	Graduate Research and Writing in Theology	1	REL 714	Research in Pastoral Theology	3
REL 711	Ecclesiology and Contemporary Society	3	REL 720	Social Psychology	3
REL 712	Formational Hermeneutics	3	REL 721	Organizational Psychology	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>8</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>

SECOND YEAR					
FALL COURSES		CREDITS	SPRING COURSES		CREDITS
REL 722	Congregational Health and Change Management	3	REL 726	Advanced Graduate Research and Writing in Theology	1
REL 723	Church Administration	3	REL 730	The Black College and the Black Church	3
REL 724	Church Finance	3	REL 750	The Doctoral Project	3
REL 725	Property Management and Real Estate	3			
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>12</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>7</b>

THIRD YEAR					
FALL COURSES		CREDITS	SPRING COURSES		CREDITS
REL 750	The Doctoral Project	3	REL 750	The Doctoral Project	3
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>3</b>

**TOTAL PROGRAM HOURS: 45**

# DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

## Course Descriptions

### FIRST YEAR COURSES

#### **REL 700 – Introduction to Graduate Online Learning** (1 cr. hr.)

This course familiarizes students with navigating through the online system for a successful start at the graduate level to be prepared for the academic rigor, social learning, and online engagement required to successfully complete the program.

#### **REL 701 – Graduate Research and Writing in Theology** (1 cr. hr.)

This course will encourage critical thinking and depth in graduate research and writing, preparing students for inclusion in a professional community of literate pastoral scholars. The graduate student's thesis and research will sustain deep analysis of a topic with a narrower focus and opportunities to demonstrate proper source documentation.

#### **REL 711 – Ecclesiology and Contemporary Society** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course will focus on selected issues facing Christian leaders in an ever-changing world. Particular attention will be given to understanding the context in which the student lives and serves, and how to develop effective forms of ministry that remain faithful to biblical principles, while being relevant, incarnational in approach, and culturally sensitive in presentation. This course will include a survey of significant events, persons and doctrinal developments over the last one hundred years.

#### **REL 712 – Formational Hermeneutics** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course will introduce students to the relationship between writer, text, and reader in the interpretation process (philosophical hermeneutics) and to methods for studying the Bible (exegesis). Students will gain skills for interpreting various literary genres of

Scripture and analyze biblical books using sound exegetical method. This course will re-introduce basic principles of exegesis and use myriad tools for biblical interpretation such as concordances, lexicons, Bible dictionaries, and commentaries to promote sound biblical theological interpretation.

#### **REL 713 – The Missional Church** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course will unfold a biblical perspective of the church that inspires deeply rooted theology for creative leadership. We will trace the missional church throughout scripture and bring alive the original missional contexts in Biblical law, the prophets, wisdom literature, the gospels, and the Pauline epistles. We will also examine the ways in which the church can be missional in creative ways beyond the physical building. We will imagine a fresh missional ecclesiology and ask how the missional core of the Biblical narrative informs the church's cultural engagement—personally, locally, and globally—and what practices can form and sustain the deep engagement of a missional community.

#### **REL 714 – Research in Pastoral Theology** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course provides an in-depth study of biblical and historical roots, theological foundations, and current understanding of pastoral theology. It explores a theology of ministry, and the study of specific ministries. Students will be introduced to theological reflection and formation for ministry. This course explores the ministry of "soul care." Aspects of congregational care and ministry through ritual are explored. Students will begin to develop specific caregiving skills. This course will also teach students how to research pastoral theology by looking at its biblical foundations, theological concerns,

and practical responsibilities. Students will be knowledgeable about classic literature in the field of pastoral ministry.

### **REL 720 – Social Psychology** (3 cr. hrs.)

The goal of social psychology is to understand how people's thoughts, feelings, and behaviors are influenced by the actual, imagined, and implied presence of others. At the heart of social psychology is the recognition that people are influenced by social situations. The course will take a social scientific look at the influence of people on the thoughts, attitudes, feelings, and behaviors of other people. It examines how individuals affect and are affected by others. Topics include impression, formation, conformity and social influence, self-perception, attitudes, aggression, prejudice, helping, attraction, group processes, and other components of social interaction.

### **REL 721 – Organizational Psychology** (3 cr. hrs.)

Organizational psychology is the application of psychological principles, theory, and research to the work setting. This course teaches students how to apply this in a congregational setting. It covers a general survey of organizational psychology, including such topics as personnel selection and evaluation, job satisfaction, environmental factors, and current research on individual behavior in complex organizations. This course reveals the usability of organizational psychology to ministry, and educates students on how to apply organizational psychology in their churches.

## **SECOND YEAR COURSES**

### **REL 722 – Congregational Health and Change Management** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course examines how to embrace the integration of faith and health as central to the wellness of the ministry leader and congregation. It demonstrates the knowledge, attitude, and skills needed to lead a healthy, vital congregation. This course helps students to be able to identify a network throughout their community with other community leaders, clinicians and social workers. It challenges students to make

a personal commitment to continued spiritual formation in order to perform more effectively the role of wellness promoter in their church.

### **REL 723 – Church Administration** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is a study of administrative principles and practices for the local church. The course examines staff, finances, buildings, and public relations in churches and integrates material from both religious and well-proven financial sources. It is designed to inform and educate students regarding management principles, procedures, techniques, theory, and practice for leading and managing churches and non-profit organizations. The course analyzes the subjects of management, administration, supervision, organization, leadership, church government, finance, and legal issues relevant to ministers and lay leaders.

### **REL 724 – Church Finance** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course offers advanced training on financial management, receipts and payments, bank reconciliation, assets management, investment, budgeting, financial statements and auditing. The aim of the course is to expose students to highly effective church financial management principles and practices. This comprehensive treatment of the subject matter will expose students to the complexities and challenges of sound fiscal responsibility and intentional stewardship.

### **REL 725 – Property Management and Real Estate** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course addresses the complexities of managing real estate investments. Students gain knowledge and insight on topics including multifamily operations, commercial leasing, marketing, and specialized housing. Students will address topics vital and inherent to pastoral leadership praxis and care of the physical building to include grounds, security, safety, maintenance, emergency plans, equipment, and inventory.

### **REL 726 – Advanced Graduate Research and Writing in Theology** (3 cr. hrs.)

This advanced seminar in research and writing is intended to help prepare students for postgraduate

work and future publication in theologically related fields. In this course, every student will prepare a final, summative writing assignment in his or her degree concentration. Particular attention will be given to the different research methods, the crafting and assessment of arguments, elements of form and style, and final editing.

### **REL 730 – The Black College and the Black Church** (3 cr. hrs.)

Unique to Hampton University, this course examines the historical and spiritual relationship between historically Black colleges and the Black church. The Black church served as an incubator for the seminal development of historically Black colleges and universities. The church and college continue to be crucial elements in the survival and flourishing of Black communities. This course traces their historic roots and examines the relationship across time and generations. Students will explore myriad ways Black colleges provide opportunities for continuing professional development and higher theological education to train ministers serving the unique conditions and challenging needs of Black communities.

### **REL 731 – Mediation, Arbitration and Conflict Management** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course equips students with specific skills necessary for managing and preventing disputes in the church. It presents to students the process of mediation, its history and development, and theories of conflict resolution and negotiation. This course will show students how to examine the nature of disputes and the multiple arenas in which conflict may occur. Students will engage in an overview of the similarities and differences among mediation, arbitration, and conflict resolution, and explore professional opportunities in dispute resolution.

### **REL 733 – Economic Development** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course is designed to explore multiple economic development strategies for church congregations. Students will examine the essential tools and concepts of economics to prepare them to understand what makes economic underdevelopment persist, and what helps economic development succeed. Students will receive a comprehensive overview to a field

of practice, and identify churches as economic partners with the larger community. This course will enable students to improve their analytical ability in understanding fundraising, obtaining grants, and building networks.

### **REL 734 – Church Curriculum Design** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course analyzes curriculum design theory and shows students how to assess learning needs, frame objectives, recognize relevant subject matter, structure appropriate learning events, implement assessments, and determine program effectiveness. Also included are curriculum evaluation, implementing curriculum change, the role of the teacher, relating curriculum theory to traditional forms of church life, and equipping educational leaders to deal with complex curricular issues in discipleship and faith formation in the church in transition. Students will explore the use of technology, online platforms, social media, hybrid church design, and other issues related to curriculum design to meet the needs of the traditional, post-modern, and emerging church models.

### **REL 735 – Church Pedagogy** (3 cr. hrs.)

This course explores theories of Christian religious education and teaching paradigms used in the church. Students will engage in a comparative study of multiple Christian education curriculum theories and examine the underlying factors that determine what the role of Christian education is or should be for the church. This course will expand students' concepts of teaching and learning, and the importance of context in local congregations.

## **THIRD YEAR COURSES**

### **REL – 750 The Doctoral Project** (9 cr. hr.)

This course requires students to design and execute a final project under the direction of a mentor who will guide in the process of this culminating project. Students will design a final innovation that is contextually appropriate and theologically relevant, and crafted upon the challenges faced by churches, congregations, and pastors in the 21st century as discovered over discussed in the course of the three years; particularly in years one and two.

## **REL 800 – Special Topics in Pastoral Leadership** (3 cr. hrs.)

Special topics courses are intended to provide a platform for faculty to teach a class that might address a timely issue (e.g., a current election). Special topics in pastoral leadership allows faculty to design their own course on pastoral leadership.

### **Admission Requirements**

- Application and \$50.00 Processing Fee
- Minimum Graduate 3.0 GPA
- (3) Letters of Recommendation
- Official College Transcripts
- A 3-page Formatted Writing Sample
- Masters degree from an accredited institution of higher learning



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