

Doctor of Ministry in Preaching

Aquinas Institute of Theology's **Doctor of Ministry in Preaching (DMin)** program is designed to make good preachers into skilled, master preachers. The program empowers students to develop professional communication skills for greater competency in preaching and homiletics. Graduates have an advanced understanding of the ministry of preaching and are able to integrate the biblical, theological, liturgical, historical, and homiletic disciplines. Such excellence in preaching is characterized by an ability to use sound biblical, congregational, and cultural exegesis with contemporary homiletic and liturgical theory.

From its inception in 1993, the Doctor of Ministry in Preaching program has remained unique among other American DMin or PhD homiletics programs. It includes a core curriculum of doctoral courses organized around the discipline of homiletics rather than a loosely organized set of masters courses with add-on doctoral assignments. This allows our doctoral students to experience what we have come to call a *wisdom community*.

Aquinas Institute is unique in the way it implements technology throughout all the courses of our DMin curriculum. Our hybrid style of learning combines online dialogue with an intensive on-campus seminar over the course of each semester-long course. This allows students to maintain their full-time ministry while pursuing doctoral studies.

Who should pursue this program?

Both lay and ordained preachers who are interested in furthering their knowledge and abilities in the field of preaching are invited to pursue this degree program. Applicants are required to hold a Master of Divinity degree that includes at least six hours of course work in preaching. They are also expected to possess at least three years of full-time preaching experience. Occasionally, students who do not possess a Master of Divinity degree can be admitted if they are able to demonstrate MDiv equivalency through other graduate work or on-going study, publication, and extensive ministerial experience.

What types of careers or ministries will this program prepare me to engage in?

The Aquinas DMin program has emerged as one of the premier terminal degrees for teachers of preaching. Twenty-two of our graduates presently teach preaching in seminaries, schools of theology, and ministerial formation programs. Twelve books by graduates are currently in publication, as well as numerous articles. Graduates of the program have also come to constitute a prominent national voice in the Academy of Homiletics and the Catholic Coalition on Preaching. They also demonstrate great influence in their local dioceses, congregations, and religious communities.

How long will it take me to complete this program?

Because the DMin program is offered in an online-cohort format, students enrolled in the program begin by following a set schedule of classes as a learning community. Students also complete two elective courses at some other university or graduate school. Finally, once all courses are completed, each student undertakes a final thesis project designed by the student and approved by the DMin Committee. Because of the variation in these projects, it can take anywhere from four to six years to complete the degree program.

What courses am I required to take to complete this program?

The DMin program requires completion of eighteen credit hours of core coursework, six credit hours of elective coursework, and a six credit hour thesis project. The sequence of required core courses, taken sequentially over three academic years, includes the following courses:

Course Title	Credits Hours
Theology of Preaching	3
Biblical Hermeneutics and Preaching	3
Core Homiletic Seminar I	3
History and Preaching	3
Liturgy and Preaching	3
Core Homiletic Seminar II	3
Thesis Project Seminar	6

In addition to the core curriculum, two three-credit elective courses are taken no sooner than the third year, usually at seminaries or schools other than Aquinas Institute. These are selected according to the student's research interests and learning goals. After completion of electives and approval by the DMin Committee of a final thesis project proposal, the thesis project can then be researched and written. This usually occurs during the fourth year.