

THE DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAM

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY

Orlando | Charlotte | Sao Paulo

PROGRAM DESIGN

The Doctor of Ministry program is available in Orlando and Charlotte. RTS also offers a joint Doctor of Ministry degree with the Andrew Jumper Graduate Theological Center, Mackenzie University, Sao Paulo, Brazil. Concerning the Brazil D.Min. program, all program requirements are the same, with slight curricular adjustments. For details regarding the Brazil curriculum, see page 37.

The purpose of the RTS Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) program is to equip Christian leaders to be more effective in their ministries through advanced study and training (beyond the M.Div. degree) in the theory and practice of a biblically integrated ministry. It is built upon the biblical, theological, and professional foundations of the Master of Divinity degree.

The goal of the RTS D.Min. program is to help produce “theologically reflective practitioners” who learn to think theologically about ministry as a result of taking D.Min. courses while simultaneously serving in ministry. The process of disciplined in-depth reading, integrative writing, and periodic campus interaction, with both RTS faculty and ministry peers, is designed to help bring positive growth in both the Christian leader’s personal life and public ministry.

The American D.Min. curriculum has two emphases – Reformed Expository Preaching and Reformed Theology & Ministry. Students will choose one of the two emphases, taking a minimum of three courses in that emphasis, and writing the final Doctoral Project in the area of that emphasis. Some of the courses in the Reformed Expository Preaching emphasis may be adjusted for women so as to provide the appropriate setting for their needs. In addition to the three emphasis courses, students will have the choice of four electives. After the completion of seven courses, a final required course for all students is the online Doctoral Project Research course which prepares students for writing the Doctoral Project. These emphases will be listed on the student’s transcript but will not be designated on the student’s diploma.

Requirements include the successful completion of 30 credit hours, which are offered in eight courses (three credit hours each) plus a doctoral project (six credit hours). Normally, students take two to four courses per year; however, a student may take more per year upon written approval of both the D.Min. Director and Academic Dean.

The division of hours is indicated below:

Three emphasis courses*	9 hours
Four elective courses*	12 hours
Online Project course	3 hours
Final Doctoral Project	6 hours
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	30 hours

Each course has three components:

1. Assigned reading of approximately 2,000 pages to be completed before attending the classroom session.
2. A one-week (five days) session of classroom meetings for lectures, reflection, and evaluation.
3. A post-session integration paper growing out of the reading and class work. Written assignments for winter courses should be submitted to the D.Min. office no later than April 30, and assignments for summer courses should be submitted no later than October 31.

American on-campus classroom sessions are offered in a one-week intensive format in the winter and the summer each year, with at least two courses available during each session. Brazil on-campus classroom sessions are offered in a one-week intensive format throughout the year. Students ordinarily take four to five years to complete all the program requirements. A maximum of six years is allowed for completion of the program. Doctoral students are required to complete a minimum of one (three-hour) D.Min. course per year until the completion of their course work.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Applicants must hold a baccalaureate degree or its foreign equivalent and in addition the M.Div. degree (a minimum of 81 semester credits) or its educational equivalent (including Greek or Hebrew). Reformed Expository Preaching emphasis must have at least one year of both Greek *and* Hebrew. A minimum 3.0 (B) cumulative grade-point average (GPA) on work toward the M.Div. degree is ordinarily required.

For American baccalaureate degrees, RTS recognizes all schools accredited by “regional” accreditors (e.g., Southern Association of Colleges and Schools). For North American master’s level degrees, RTS recognizes all schools accredited by the Association of Theological Schools. Applicants to the D.Min. program who have not completed the requisite Master of Divinity degree from an accredited seminary or graduate school may apply on the basis of having attained the educational equivalent of the M.Div. degree.

M.Div. educational equivalency shall be defined as having completed 81 credit hours of graduate study including 30 hours in historical/theological studies, 30 hours in biblical studies, 6 hours in either Greek or Hebrew, and 15 hours in pastoral theology studies. Part of the 81 credit hours must

*Reformed Expository Preaching courses can be found in DM8100-DM8299. Reformed Theology & Ministry courses can be found in DM8300-DM8399. Free electives are in the DM8400 block.

include a master's degree in a theological discipline. Transcripts of prior graduate study will be evaluated by the D.Min. Committee, and applicants will be advised by letter of their standing. In the event that M.Div. equivalency has not been attained, a prescribed program of study leading to M.Div. equivalency will be recommended. This prescribed program may include courses at an RTS campus, distance education, or course work at another seminary.

Applicants must have been engaged in a recognized form of professional ministry for at least three years after receiving their Master of Divinity degree and are expected to reflect competence and growth in ministry as a result of their professional experience. (A limited number of students with less than three years experience post-M.Div. may be admitted based on other ministry-experience factors that have prepared them for D.Min. studies.) Students are expected to continue their practice of full-time ministry for the duration of their Doctor of Ministry program.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All D.Min. students are required to complete 30 credit hours with a grade point average of 3.0 and with no grade below a C (2.0) counting toward the degree. The 24 hours of course work must include four core courses and four elective courses. Also

required is a six-credit-hour doctoral project on an approved subject giving evidence of the student's ability to do independent research and integrate theology into practical ministry. A minimum of 12 hours (4 courses) plus the six-hour doctoral project must be taken on the RTS campus from which the candidate plans to do the doctoral project and graduate. The student may take the other 12 hours on either of the RTS campuses that provide D.Min. courses. Students may transfer a maximum of two 3-hour D.Min. courses from another seminary.

The completed doctoral project must be either (1) submitted no later than February 15 and defended successfully before a faculty committee no later than April 15 prior to the expected date of graduation in May, or (2) submitted no later than August 15 and defended successfully before a faculty committee no later than October 15 prior to the expected date of graduation in December.

All students expecting to graduate must make formal application for graduation to the faculty through the Registrar. The graduation fee will be paid at this time. Ordinarily, degrees will be awarded at the conclusion of the spring semester, but may be granted in December.

RTS JOINT DOCTOR OF MINISTRY DEGREE

*With Andrew Jumper Graduate Theological Center,
Mackenzie University, Sao Paulo, Brazil*

The Andrew Jumper Graduate Theological Center (AJGTC) of Mackenzie University, Sao Paulo, Brazil, is an approved “complete degree site” for the RTS Doctor of Ministry degree program jointly offered with AJGTC, with RTS being “vested with control of the program.” All course work will be held at the AJGTC at Mackenzie University in Sao Paulo, Brazil. Mackenzie University and the Andrew Jumper Graduate Theological Center are operated and supported by the Igreja Presbiteriana do Brasil (Presbyterian Church in Brazil).

Curriculum requirements include the successful completion of 30 credit hours, which are offered in eight courses (three credit hours each) plus a doctoral project (six credit hours). The division of hours is indicated below:

<i>Four core courses</i>	<i>12 hours</i>
DM8400 Theology of Ministry	
DM8402 Applied Theology	
DM8404 Leadership	
DM8406 Church Growth	
or DM8408 Church Revitalization	
<i>Four elective courses.....</i>	<i>12 hours</i>
<i>Final Doctoral Project.....</i>	<i>6 hours</i>
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	<i>30 hours</i>

Disclaimer: Reformed Theological Seminary is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges to award master’s degrees and doctoral degrees, and by the Commission on Accrediting of the Association of Theological Schools to award the Doctor of Ministry degree (for the full list of degrees, see page 8). The Andrew Jumper Graduate Theological Center at Mackenzie University is not accredited by the Commission on Colleges or the Commission on Accrediting, and the accreditation of Reformed Theological Seminary does not extend to or include Andrew Jumper Graduate Theological Center, Mackenzie University, or its students.