At the School of Divinity, men and women are encouraged to pursue their ministry calling wherever God is leading them.
SCHOOL OF DIVINITY | THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Education for ministry is the heartbeat of the School of Divinity at Gardner-Webb University. Excellent scholars teach the classical Christian disciplines with full awareness that academics alone will not meet the needs, concerns, and challenges of the varieties of Christian ministries to which God calls us. We are certain that unless we attend to our spiritual, personal, and emotional development, the ministries to which we are called will fall far short of our Lord's expectations.

At Gardner-Webb University, great faith manifests itself in who you are and how you act. Because greatness, after all, is really about changing lives and helping others (at Gardner-Webb, you’ll do plenty of both).

Here you’ll test your intellectual mettle - and you’ll also seek your purpose. You’ll strive to find that place where your faith reaches out to meet the needs of the world. In other words, your calling.

Dr. Robert Canoy
Dean | School of Divinity

Quick Facts

- Accreditation: Accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in U.S. & Canada (ATS).
- Cost: Affordable tuition! The Doctor of Ministry costs less than $12,000 for the entire program (excluding fees). Deferred Payment Plans are available.
- Schedule: Seminars are conveniently offered in a four or eight week schedule format, with classes on Thursdays and Fridays.
- Graduates: Our graduates serve as ministers in local, regional churches as denominational leaders, as missionaries, as chaplains, as campus ministers, and as professors.
- Affiliations: Affiliated with the Baptist State Convention of North Carolina, Cooperative Baptist Fellowship of NC, and Cooperative Baptist Fellowship.
- Location: Boiling Springs, NC, located 50 miles southwest of Charlotte, NC, 50 miles north of Greenville, SC, and 68 miles southeast of Asheville, NC.
- Campus: Located on 250 acre main campus of Gardner-Webb University.
- Faculty: Study under the tutelage of scholars from Vanderbilt University, Drew University, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary.
- Number of Students: More than 20 Doctor of Ministry students are enrolled.
- Denominations Represented: Baptist, Lutheran, Christian Methodist Episcopal, and Non-Denominational.
- Project Titles – Examples of Doctor of Ministry Project Titles include “Evaluating the Effectiveness of Outreach and Retention Methods of Six Congregations of the Brunswick Baptist Association,” “The Role of Youth Ministry in Helping the Parents of Middle School Students Communicate Biblical Truths of Sexuality at the First Baptist Church of Lenoir, NC,” “Clarifying the Meaning of Local Church Covenant Use,” “The Assimilation of New Members,” “Committee Performance Enhancement.”
DOCTOR OF MINISTRY | PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The Doctor of Ministry (D.Min.) degree is an advanced professional degree for ministers. The thirty (30) hour degree program addresses ministry issues developing naturally from the global community, and it seeks to enhance the capacity of the minister to engage in theological reflection in the real world in the service of the church. With seminars offered on Thursdays and Fridays, the degree may be completed in three years. Accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS), the Doctor of Ministry was the first doctoral degree offered by Gardner-Webb University.

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY | OBJECTIVES

✦ The student will develop a biblical theology of worship and the capacity to lead the community of faith in corporate worship.

✦ The student will develop a pastoral theology.

✦ The student will develop a level of personal, interpersonal, and spiritual awareness commensurate with mature ministry and the skills to practice pastoral care in a ministry setting.

✦ The student will develop an understanding of faith formation and will hone the skills needed to administer an effective faith formation curriculum in a ministry setting.

✦ The student will enrich her/his understanding of ecclesiology.

✦ The student will understand ministry as a commitment to life-long learning, and the student will learn to develop educational strategies within the ministry setting to realize this commitment.

✦ The student will demonstrate the ability to reflect upon the nature of her/his ministry by conceptualizing and executing an original project in ministry, reflecting theologically on the project, and defending the project to a committee of faculty and other ministry professionals.

Stretching the Mind,
Stirring the Heart,
Serving the Church.
THE MINISTRY PROJECT

The student will design, implement, and reflect upon a self-directed, original project of ministry conducted in her/his own ministry setting.
The Doctor of Ministry Curriculum

The Doctor of Ministry degree is a thirty (30) hour degree program comprised of three major components: seminars, supervision, and a ministry project. Five seminars are required for which eighteen (18) credit hours will be awarded. Two of the five seminars are required courses for all Doctor of Ministry students. The remaining three seminars may be chosen at the discretion of the student and her/his faculty advisor.

Doctor of Ministry Seminars

Required Seminars (6 hours)
- The Ministry as Life-Long Learning (2 hours)
- The Ministry of Biblical Interpretation (4 hours)

Seminars Offered

The student will register for three of the following seminars:
- Educating the Church through Christian Spirituality (4 hours)
- The Ministry of Worship (4 hours)
- The Ministry of Preaching (4 hours)
- The Ministry of Christian Education and Administration (4 hours)
- The Ministry of Leadership in the Church (4 hours)
- The Ministry of Pastoral Care (4 hours)
- Conflict Resolution in the Church (4 hours)
- Issues in Advanced Pastoral Care and Counseling (4 hours)
- The Ministry and the World (4 hours)
- Mission and Ministry in a Pluralistic World (4 hours)
- Mission and Cross Cultural Ministry (4 hours)
- Mission Strategies for Ministry (4 hours)

THE MINISTRY PROJECT

The student will design, implement, and reflect upon a self-directed, original project of ministry conducted in her/his own ministry setting.

FACULTY

Study under the tutelage of scholars from Vanderbilt University, Drew University, and The Southern Baptist Theological Seminary

“Do your best to present yourself to God as one approved, a workman who does not need to be ashamed and who correctly handles the word of truth.”

2 Timothy 2:15

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SCHOOL OF DIVINITY | SUPERVISION

The student will complete a minimum of two semesters of Peer Learning Supervision, for a total of six (6) hours. Peer Learning Supervision is directed by a Field Supervisor who has been appointed by the School of Divinity. The student will participate in structured supervised peer-learning experiences related to her/his ministry. In lieu of one semester of Peer Learning Supervision, the student may register for one basic unit of Clinical Pastoral Education.

SCHOOL OF DIVINITY | SEMINARS

THE TRADITIONAL ACADEMIC SEMINAR ROTATION

FIRST YEAR

Summer
✦ Seminar One: The Ministry as Life-Long Learning (2 hours)

Fall
✦ Seminar Two (4 hours)

Spring
✦ Seminar Three (4 hours)
✦ The student is assigned a Field Supervisor and Peer Group.

SECOND YEAR

Summer - Optional
✦ The student completes one basic unit of Clinical Pastoral Education, if desired, in lieu of one semester of Peer Learning Supervision (3 hours).

Fall
✦ Seminar Four (4 hours)
✦ Peer Learning Supervision: Field Supervision and Peer Group Experience (3 hours)

Spring
✦ Seminar Five (4 hours)
✦ Peer Learning Supervision: Field Supervision and Peer Group Experience (3 hours)
✦ Ministry Project Workshop: Faculty Advisor Assigned (0 hours)

THIRD YEAR

Summer
✦ The student develops Ministry Project Proposal and submits it to the Director of the D.Min. Program.

Fall
✦ The Student implements the Ministry Project.

Spring
✦ The student completes and defends the Ministry Project.
✦ The completion of degree requirements is certified (3 hours).
The Doctor of Ministry Degree can be earned with a specialized concentration in Pastoral Care and Counseling and Member Care for Missionaries. The concentration in Pastoral Care and Counseling and Member Care for Missionaries is designed for the student who seeks professional preparation in the area of pastoral care and counseling. It is designed for the student who serves in specialized clinical settings and/or who ministers to the needs of missionaries and their families. The student whose goal is to enhance pastoral care in parish ministry may pursue the Doctor of Ministry degree with this concentration.

Overview of Curriculum
The Doctor of Ministry degree is a thirty (30) hour degree program comprised of three major components: seminars, supervision, and a ministry project. Five seminars are required for which eighteen (18) credit hours will be earned.

REQUIRED CONCENTRATION SEMINARS (4 HOURS)

- Ministry as Life-Long Learning – Pastoral Care and Counseling (2 hours)
- Issues in Advanced Pastoral Care and Counseling (4 hours) OR The Ministry of Member Care/Wellness (4 hours)
- Clinical Aspects of Care (4 hours)
- Interpersonal Relationships and Family Systems Theory (4 hours)
- Crisis Intervention Theories (4 hours)

The student pursuing the Doctor of Ministry degree with a concentration in Pastoral Care and Counseling and Member Care for Missionaries will register for six hours of Supervised Ministry and six hours of Ministry Project.
The Admissions Process
Requirements for Admission to the Doctor of Ministry Program

♦ The completion of a bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution.
♦ The completion of the Master of Divinity degree (or its educational equivalent) from an ATS-accredited institution.
♦ A minimum grade point average of 2.75 in Master of Divinity studies.
♦ Completion of three years of significant ministry experience beyond the first graduate theological degree.
♦ Placement in a full-time vocational ministry setting.

Procedure for Admission
Doctor of Ministry

♦ Submit a completed paper or online application.
♦ Submit official transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate-level study.
♦ Submit three references (consisting of academic, ministerial, and personal).
♦ Submit a Church Approval Form, provided by the School of Divinity, from the congregation where the applicant is a member.
♦ Submit the Ministry Essay, a ten to fifteen page, double-spaced ministry essay that articulates the applicant’s call to ministry, theology of ministry, history in ministry, goals for ministry, and how she/he believes earning the Doctor of Ministry degree will enrich her/his ministry.
♦ Submit a completed Immunization History Form provided by the School of Divinity.
♦ The submission of a statewide criminal background check for all residing states within the last five years with a residence verification form.

“...the degree is radically applied to ministry and is designed to equip persons to fulfill their calling at the highest level of excellence.”

Dr. Danny West,
Director of the Doctor of Ministry Program and Associate Professor of Preaching and Pastoral Studies
The School of Divinity is located in Noel Hall, which is on the campus of Gardner-Webb University situated on over 250 acres in the Piedmont section of western North Carolina. Boiling Springs is a small, rural town. Nearby Shelby, a city of 25,000, is noted for its support of the arts and as the home of state and national leaders. Fifty miles east of Gardner-Webb is the thriving city of Charlotte, the largest city in the Carolinas. Less than one hour away to the south is the city of Greenville, SC, and Asheville is located 68 miles northwest.

Find us by GPS
110 S. Main Street, Boiling Springs, NC 28017

www.gardner-webb.edu/divinity

Gardner-Webb University
School of Divinity

Yes, I want to learn more about the School of Divinity. Please send me information!

Name ___________________________________________  DOB____________
Address __________________________________________________________
City _________________________________  State _______   Zip____________
Home/Cell Phone (_____) ____________________________________________
Work Phone (_____) _________________________________________________
Email ____________________________________________________________
College/University ___________________________________________________
Degrees Held _______________________________________________________

Please send me information about:  ☐ Doctor of Ministry degree
☐ Doctor of Ministry degree with a concentration in Pastoral Care and Counseling and Member Care for Missionaries

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As a student at the School of Divinity, the University setting offers you many advantages such as NCAA Division I athletic events, concerts, and theatrical productions.

For your enjoyment, access to the Suttle Wellness Center, pool, free weights and Nautilus rooms, tennis and basketball courts, and much more is available.

We’re all about community and fellowship, which is why the Koinonia Lounge, located in the School of Divinity, provides a gathering place for students to relax, join a study group, or find out where the crowd’s going for lunch.

Faith ❧ Service ❧ Leadership

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