Master of Divinity: Intercultural Ministries Specialization

The Intercultural Ministries specialization is for students who would like to work in a multicultural setting or help lead a missions program at their local church. The classes will help students develop a philosophy and practice of mission that is informed by biblical, theological and cultural perspectives. Students will discuss the history of such work and the contemporary demonstrations of how the church is engaged with global mission.

MIN-567 Missional Church: Church and Culture — Past and Present 3 credits

This course is designed to provide a historical overview of the church’s engagement with culture including and leading up to the recent cultural shift from modernity to postmodernity. As well as a historical perspective on the church and culture, the centerpiece of the course is a close-up look at the emerging cultural shifts and their influence on how the church should live out her mission.

MIN-660 Cultural Intelligence: Multicultural Understanding 3 credits

This course is designed to give leaders an introductory grasp of cultural intelligence, a person’s ability to adapt successfully to different national, organizational, and professional cultures. Literature from the fields of anthropology and sociology are used as well as studying cultural engagement in light of the biblical narrative, as a way to develop missional communities of incarnational ministry.

MIN-667 Urban and Local Development: Exegeting our own Communities 3 credits

This course studies the brokenness in our own neighborhoods and explores practical ways for the church to embody the gospel in response to social inequities like racism, inequitable distribution of wealth, illiteracy, abuse, etc. It considers the literature of urban transformation and the use of measures like casework, education, microlending/microenterprise development, etc.

Please note that the Ministry Residency course descriptions below are more focused on pastoral work. However, you can tailor these residencies to your program, and past Intercultural Studies students have utilized semesters abroad, overseas mission trips, and work with local international non-profits for their Ministry Residencies.
MIN-685 Ministry Residency I  
2 credits

The first course of four designed for the MR (ministry residency). The student will get acquainted with their specific ministry culture. Through the student’s ministry, interaction with their mentor, contact with other MR residents, and their own personal reflection, the student will lay a foundation for their journey in a ministry context while gaining feedback that will help them in preparation for ministry. Upon successful completion of this course, students will be able to articulate goals for personal growth and ministry competency; track and evaluate their time management; establish the discipline of journaling and reflection; apply regular feedback and guidance given from their mentor; and be relationally connected with their ministry context as they invest time and relational energy, establishing relationships and rapport.

MIN-686 Ministry Residency II  
2 credits

The second course of four designed for the MR (ministry residency). This course builds upon the competency goals defined in MIN-686 and begins to explore ministry topics that pertain to small group dynamics, working with elders/boards, pastoral duties (leading communion), strategic planning and staff meetings. Upon successful completion of this course students will gain experience leading/facilitating a small group; become familiar with leading communion/a communion service; establish a ministry initiative and strategic plan for implementation; grow in interacting with staff members; and gain experience attending board/elders meetings.

MIN-781 Ministry Residency III  
2 credits

The third course of four designed for the MR (ministry residency). This course builds upon the competency goals of the previous two courses and attempts to extend ministry experience into areas of classroom teaching, board/elders meetings, pastoral duties (weddings), implementing a ministry initiative, leadership and pastoral counseling. Upon successful completion of this semester of residency, students will become familiar with preparing for and officiating a wedding; implementing a ministry initiative and strategic plan; learn to recruit, shepherd, and lead a team of volunteers serving their ministry initiative, and navigate pastoral counseling concepts and strategies.
MIN-782 Ministry Residency IV 2 credits

The fourth course of four designed for the MR (ministry residency). This course builds upon the competency goals of the MIN-781 and brings completion to the student’s residency experience. The student’s final semester as a MR resident will focus in areas of personal solitude (through a one-day retreat), preaching, pastoral duties (funerals, dedications/ baptisms), assessing and leading a developed ministry initiative, leadership development, “on call” counseling and referrals, gift assessment and strength finder, and summary evaluation of one’s calling and next steps beyond formal ministry training. Upon successful completion of this course, the student will gain experience through preaching opportunities and receive feedback; prepare for and, if the occasion arises, lead a funeral service; prepare for and lead a baptism/ dedication service; evaluate their ministry initiative and strategic plan and determine its next steps; evaluate and assess their spiritual gifts and leadership strengths; and intentionally schedule, plan and implement a personal, one-day retreat.