Master of Divinity: Student and Family Ministries Specialization

The Student and Family Ministries specialization is intended for students planning to pursue youth ministry. The classes will help you identify and develop skills necessary for community biblical truth to the next generation. Students will evaluate teaching and learning theories in order to craft a distinctly Christian philosophy of educating youth.

MIN-553 Sociology of Adolescence 3 credits

The course is designed to foster an intellectual understanding of the evolution of adolescence in Western society and current influences that shape its constitution. Special attention will also be given to application of this understanding toward effective ministry with youth.

MIN-641 Theology of Youth Ministry 3 credits

Students will seek to integrate a theologically-informed perspective with sound principles to create a philosophy of youth ministry. Special attention will be given to exploring how adolescent faith is nurtured.

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  

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  

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.

And choose from one of the following:

COU-520 Child and Adolescent Counseling  

This course is designed to provide an understanding of the unique developmental issues of the child and adolescent years. Included are strategies necessary for a successful counseling ministry with these important groups.

COU-521 Marriage and Family Counseling  

This course is focused on issues currently impacting marriage and family, including divorce and single parent situations. Consideration will be given to the subject matter from a theological, sociological and psychological perspective. Students will perform basic research in this important area, and they will participate in learning activities that foster skill development and strategy formation.