



# Virginia Bible College

## Degree Equivalency and Pre-Doctor of Ministry Program Policy

### Doctor of Ministry Admission Requirements:

Admission requirements for the Doctor of Ministry program include:

- A master's degree in a religious or other field of study and demonstration of mastery of the core competencies of Virginia Bible College's Master of Ministry degree
- Completed application
- Essay addressing (1) reasons for applying for the DMIN program; (2) description of ministry or leadership experience; and (3) future vocational and/or ministerial goals
- Two(2) recommendations: (1) Pastoral reference; and (2) Professional colleague or acquaintance

### Educational Preparation Assessment and Equivalency

**Rationale.** The Doctor of Ministry program is the terminal degree in professional ministry leadership preparation and assumes adequate master's level biblical, theological, and ministry arts study. Such studies should have prepared the prospective Doctor of Ministry student to engage in respectful, constructive, original, creative, and innovative learning and ministry practice. At Virginia Bible College (VBC), the basic professional degree for ministry is the 36-42 hour Master of Ministry degree.

All students admitted to the Doctor of Ministry program will demonstrate, either prior to admission or concomitantly with their doctoral work, the core competencies of VBC's master's program regardless of previous degrees earned. All competency requirements must be satisfied prior to graduation from the Doctor of Ministry program. VBC's policy for equivalency of study for non-theological master's degree students entering the program are consistent with the Transnational Association of Colleges and Schools standards and best practices considerations.

**Master's Study Competencies Required:** The following competencies, reflective of VBC's Master of Ministry core, are required for admission of all students:

1. Demonstrate an advanced ability to interpret the Bible, discern doctrinal truth from error, and formulate a Bible based theology.
2. Evidence a worldview that is distinctly Christian, integrating Christian thought while responding self-critically and sensitively to challenges arising in church, marketplace, and the world at large.



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3. Demonstrate an understanding of humanity from a strong biblical and psychological foundation and apply this to daily interpersonal interaction, ministry, and leadership.
4. Formulate and discuss ideas and conclusions logically and critically.
5. Able to analyze seminal texts, discerning and communicating the importance and quality of the arguments therein in light of related literary, historical, cultural, ecclesial, wider intellectual, and global contexts.
6. Able to integrate and defend biblical truth through correlates of theology, while critically evaluating the range of alternate views and perspectives.
7. Demonstrate Christian leadership skills that integrate faith and integrity and apply this competence to interaction with the world.
8. Possess an intimate knowledge of the Scriptures that leads to spiritual transformation and strong relationship with Christ.

**Assessment and Equivalency.** Prospective students with master's degrees in religious studies or other fields of study must have courses or other learning experiences demonstrating achievement of the VBC master's program core competencies. Students with master's degrees in religious studies will provide transcripts, syllabi, and other materials as requested by the Director of Graduate Studies to verify educational preparation in the core competencies. Students with master's degrees in other fields will complete coursework at VBC or elsewhere that satisfy the core competency requirement prior to their last semester in the Doctor of Ministry program. Under no circumstances will students be allowed to graduate with the doctoral degree until all core competency requirements have been met. The following courses can be taken at VBC by students lacking the core competencies to satisfy this admission requirement:

### Equivalency Courses for Core Competencies

EX 511 Reading and Interpreting the Old Testament	3 hours (PLO 1/8)
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THEO 621 Systematic Theology	3 hours (PLO 2/4/6)
HT 531 Historical Theology I	3 hours (PLO 2/5/6)
HT 532 Historical Theology II	3 hours (PLO 2/5/6)
SF 571 Spiritual Formation	3 hours (PLO 3/7/8)
CC 551 Counseling and Christian Thought	3 hours (PLO 3)
LD 561 Leadership in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	3 hours (PLO 7)
<b>TOTAL EQUIVALENCY/COMPETENCY HOURS</b>	<b>24 hours</b>

**Admissions Status.** Students will be admitted based on evaluation of their meeting of admission requirements as either (1) Full Admission when all requirements are met or (2) Provisionally Admitted when requirements are not fully met. For students to become Doctor of Ministry candidates (completion of all requirements, coursework and ready to formally begin dissertation), all equivalency requirements for core competencies must be completed.