

The Master of Leadership in Ministry (MLM) is an accelerated, innovative, in-ministry, cohort-based program designed to educate, equip, and empower scholar-leaders for vocational ministry in churches and other ministry organizations. Building on knowledge and competencies developed in bachelor's degrees currently offered in the Department of Christian Ministries (or comparable degrees), coursework is focused on integrating foundational knowledge of the Bible, theology, culture, and human development, with leadership and ministry practice. The program utilizes a hybrid of online coursework combined with strategically chosen face-to-face sessions including two courses taught on location in Israel.

**MLM 501: PRACTICAL THEOLOGY: THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION ON MINISTRY PRAXIS**

Too often, theology and life can seem disconnected. The purpose of this course is to prepare students to be theologically grounded scholar-leaders in ministry through engagement with an ongoing, intentional process of practical theology. As one aspect of this process, students will develop competency in using an electronic biblical studies tool.

**MLM 502: MINISTRY AND THE KINGDOM OF GOD IN THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVE**

In this course, students will evaluate various theological positions as well as articulate and defend one's understanding of these positions on foundational areas of Christian theology in relationship to ministry praxis. Traditional theological categories will be addressed within the broader theme of the Kingdom of God narrative (Creation, fall, redemption, vocation, consummation).

**MLM 503: DEVELOPMENTAL PERSPECTIVES ON MINISTRY**

From infancy to elderhood, God created people with a natural process of development in the physical, intellectual, emotional, social, and spiritual realms. Building on an understanding of theological anthropology, this course will focus on applying the insights of developmental psychology to the critique and design of ministry strategies and programs for persons throughout the lifespan.

**MLM 504: DEVELOPING AS A LEADER IN MINISTRY**

The purpose of this course is to facilitate the development of the student's character, spiritual life and leadership through a process of self-reflection in interaction with a mentor, supervisor, ministry peers and ministry participants.

**MLM 505: BIBLICAL HISTORY & CULTURE ON LOCATION: HOLY LAND STUDY TOUR**

Biblical interpretation is grounded in an understanding of the ancient worlds in which they are rooted. The purpose of this course is to develop students' understanding of, and appreciation for biblical history, geography and cultures through a study tour of the Holy Land.

**MLM 506: JESUS TRAIL: SPIRITUAL FORMATION THROUGH THE EYES OF PILGRIMAGE**

Ministry is the overflow of one's life in deep connection with the Spirit of God into the lives of others. The purpose of this course is to encourage and enable students to cultivate that ongoing connection with God through the experience of pilgrimage on the Jesus Trail in Israel. Multiple spiritual disciplines will be incorporated into the aspects of the pilgrimage.

### **MLM 601: CULTIVATING HEALTHY & EFFECTIVE MINISTRY TEAMS**

What are the factors influencing the development of ministry teams? How can the leader cultivate healthy and effective teams in ministry organizations? The purpose of this course is to equip and empower students to cultivate healthy and effective ministry teams, whether volunteers or staff. The course will engage students in the biblical, theological and theoretical foundations related to teams, as they assess the needs of, and create a development plan for a team in their ministry setting as well as critique popular thought on leadership in Christian ministry.

### **MLM 602: STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR MINISTRY EFFECTIVENESS**

This course will challenge students to think and act strategically in the development and practice of ministry through the development of a theology, philosophy, strategy and praxis of ministry for one's context. Students will research and critique a variety of models in one's area of ministry and then construct a model of ministry for their organizational and community context.

### **MLM 603: FACILITATING COMMUNITIES OF LEARNING IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES**

The facilitation of growth and learning are central to the practice of Christian ministry. In this course, students will integrate an understanding of the theological, biblical and theoretical foundations of teaching and learning into the development of a curriculum plan and teaching materials for a Christian ministry. Attention will be given to the variety of instructional contexts available in a ministry setting.

### **MLM 604: WALKING IN THEIR SHOES: MINISTRY IN CONTEXT**

Ministry is the incarnation of God's mission and purposes within the life of a particular community. In this course students will evaluate and apply various approaches to contextualization for use in their ministry context. Taking advantage of Judson's location, this class will include interaction with ministry leaders in the Chicagoland area.

### **MLM 605: THE JOURNEY TOGETHER: THE THEORY, PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES OF MENTORING IN CHRISTIAN MINISTRY**

The purpose of this course is to evaluate and apply redemptive principles in intentional relationships understood through mentoring theory and principles, reflecting the theological foundations of spiritual formation. The practice of mentoring and discipleship in ministry will also be emphasized as students utilize the skills in the development of a mentoring relationship and the creation of a mentoring ministry within a Christian ministry organization.

### **MLM 606: APPLIED RESEARCH SEMINAR**

Serving as the capstone experience for the MLM program, the focus of this course is on the integration of research skills and knowledge developed throughout the program into an applied research project. The course will also encourage students to reflect on their growth and development related to each of the program goals.