

Doctor of Buddhist Ministry

The Doctor of Buddhist Ministry is an advanced professional degree culminating in a dissertation project. This selective program enhances the practice of ministry for religious leaders who already hold a Master of Divinity or equivalent degree by cultivating their understanding and application of

- A. the nature and purpose of ministry in relation to the world,
- B. competencies in self-reflexive and ministerial skills,
- C. competency in research methods appropriate to engaged Humanistic Buddhist work,
- D. spiritual and self-defined ethical perspective,
- E. professional ethics through humanistic engagement with diverse cultural, religious, and linguistic contexts.

The program applies a Buddhist perspective to ministerial issues facing practitioners in the contemporary world. Students gain a deeper understanding and commitment to the dharma (Buddhist teaching), while refining their ministerial application. Students develop research, writing, and communication skills to the level necessary to participate in professional academic discourse and practice-oriented domains of religion and service.

A Doctor of Buddhist Ministry degree is awarded on the basis of evidence that the candidate possesses knowledge of a broad field of applied learning and mastery of a particular area of concentration within it.

Honor Code

Buddhist ministry students are held to the highest standards of personal and professional conduct and ethics. By engaging in the study of Buddhist ministry, students assume a role of spiritual leadership within the campus community. Serving in this role, it is essential that ministry students model respect for all others informed by Buddhist wisdom and practices. Honoring the expression of differing opinions is not only a hallmark of good education but also a requirement for genuine interfaith work.

Therefore, ministry students are expected to engage in conduct that builds character, compassion, and community. Most significantly, they are expected to refrain from any conduct that would hurt, deride, or belittle another. Students who fail to uphold the values and codes of conduct of the Department of Buddhist Chaplaincy or the university are subject to disciplinary action based on the severity of the misconduct. Possible action may include suspension up to expulsion. Students may be placed on administrative leave for a specified period. During this time, students are expected to engage in self-reflection to decide if Buddhist ministry continues to be a good fit for their career aspirations. At the close of this period, students may petition for reentry into the program. Reentry is subject to university approval.

Admission

In addition to UWest graduate admission requirements, the following are required for admission to the Doctor of Buddhist Ministry program:

1. Statement of Purpose: Statement should describe how enrollment in UWest's DBMin program will further the applicant's personal goals and aspirations, achievements, and education and career objectives.
2. Completion of MDiv or MA in a related field with GPA of 3.0
3. One unit of Clinical Pastoral Care (CPE) with evaluation letter from CPE supervisor or three years of ministerial/temple work after completion of MDiv or MA
 - A. CPE Evaluation letter must assess written communication, emotional and spiritual development
 - B. One year of CPE Residency is highly recommended
4. Four letters of recommendation, including
 - A. two letters from academic sources such as advisor, dean, chair
 - B. one letter from peer such as dharma brother or sister
 - C. one letter from pastoral supervisor or master
 - D. Letters must address communication skills, spiritual practice, precept practice, community service
5. Interview, either in person or by telephone

Program Learning Outcomes

Students who graduate with a Doctor of Buddhist Ministry will be able to:

- recognize and express the nature and purpose of their ministry in relation to the world.
- engage in and demonstrate self-reflexive skills.
- identify and demonstrate competency in research methodologies appropriate to engaged Humanistic Buddhist work
- skillfully articulate a self-defined ethical perspective.
- demonstrate professional ethics through humanistic engagement with diverse cultural, religious, and linguistic contexts.

Program Requirements

Area	Required Units
Core Courses	9
Practica	6
Electives	36
Candidacy Portfolio	0
Research Training	12
Total	63

Core Courses (9 units): Students complete the following foundational courses.

Course	Units
BMIN 600 Seminar: Buddhist Issues & Frameworks	3
BMIN 607 Research Methods	3
BMIN 610 Ethics in Buddhist Ministry	3

Practica (6 units): In consultation with their advisors, students choose two courses from the following list.

Course	Units
BMIN 620 Engaged Compassion	3
CONT 510 Topics in Comparative Contemplative Practice	3
CONT 520 Topics in Contemplative Practice	3
REL 521 Buddhist Meditation Practicum	3
MDIV 590 Service Practicum	3

Electives (36 units): In consultation with their advisors, students select 12 units of elective courses from each of these three areas.

A. Ministerial & Applied Approaches (12 units)

Course	Units
MDIV 510 Communication Skills for Chaplaincy	3
MDIV 515 Privilege, Power, & Difference	3
MDIV 530 Interfaith Rituals for Chaplaincy	3
MDIV 565 Buddhist Homiletics: Writing & Giving Dharma Talks	3
MDIV 645 Spiritual Care & Counseling	3
MDIV 650 Pastoral Theology	3
MDIV 655 Spiritual Formation for Buddhist Chaplains	3
MDIV 670 Spiritual Leadership	3
PSYCH 505 Buddhist & Multicultural Community Mental Health	3
PSYCH 600 Group Psychotherapy	3
PSYCH 614 Religion & Psychology Seminar	3
PSYCH 617 Application of Mindfulness in Western Therapy	3
PSYCH 551 Theories II: Buddhist-Inspired Evidence-Based Practice	3

B. Buddhist Studies (12 units)

Course	Units
CONT 520 Topics in Contemplative Practice	3
CONT 550 Contemplation: Chinese Canon	3
MDIV 640 Seminar in Buddhist Ministry	3
REL 505 Women in Buddhism	3
REL 521 Buddhist Meditation Practicum	3
REL 530 Topics in Buddhist Meditation	3
REL 540 Buddhist Hermeneutics	3
REL 627 Buddhism & Ritual	3
REL 630 Seminar: Buddhist Texts in Canonical Languages	3
REL 636 Seminar: Buddhist Texts in Translation	3
REL 639 Topics in the Study of Religion	3
REL 640 Topics in Buddhist Studies	3
REL 645 Seminar: Regional Buddhist Traditions	3
REL 653 Vajrayana Buddhism	3
REL 655 Perspectives in the Study of Chan/Zen Buddhism	3
REL 657 Humanistic Buddhism & Current Issues	3
REL 659 Buddhism in the United States	3
REL 670 Spread of Buddhism to Central Asia/ China	3

C. Interdisciplinary & Interfaith Studies (12 units)

Course	Units
MDIV 540 Sacred Abrahamic Texts in Spiritual Care & Counseling	3
MDIV 675 Advanced Topics in Professional Chaplaincy	3
MBA 560 Managing Nonprofit Organizations	3
REL 515 Religions of China	3
REL 520 Religions of India	3
REL 545 Sacred Time & Sacred Space in the History of Religions	3
REL 590 Comparative Study of Religion	3
REL 603 Seminar: Philosophy of Religion	3
REL 610 Seminar: Religion & Ethics	3
REL 640 Topics in Comparative Religion	3
REL 660 Seminar: Buddhist-Christian Dialogue	3

Languages (optional): Students may apply up to 12 units of graduate language study in Pali, Sanskrit, Classical Chinese, or Tibetan. A maximum of 6 units each may be applied to B. Buddhist Studies and C. Interdisciplinary and Interfaith Studies. Language study is recommended during the first year of coursework or as soon as the relevant courses are offered.

Candidacy Portfolio: Upon completion of the 51-unit course requirement, students must petition to submit the candidacy portfolio. Students may enroll in BMIN 705 for one term while preparing and passing portfolio. With the chair's approval, BMIN 705 may be repeated one time only. Credit is not applicable to graduation.

Course	Units
BMIN 705 Candidacy Portfolio	3

Research Training (12 units): Upon being granted candidacy status, the candidate enters the dissertation project phase. Students should be able to engage in advanced graduate level research, writing, and communication. Candidates register for BMIN 698A, 698B, 710, or a combination of these courses for a total of 12 units while engaged in the dissertation project process.

Course	Units
BMIN 698A Proposal Writing	3
BMIN 698B Dissertation Writing	3
BMIN 710 Research Training	3-9

Continuous Enrollment: After completing the 12-unit research requirement, candidates must maintain enrollment through successful submission of the dissertation project by enrolling in BMIN 715 each fall and spring semester. Enrollment in summer semester is not required. Credit is not applicable to graduation requirements.

Course	Units
BMIN 698B Dissertation Writing	1
BMIN 715 Continuous Enrollment	1

Candidacy Portfolio: After students have completed a minimum of 51 units of doctoral coursework, they must petition to submit the candidacy portfolio. Students are encouraged to enroll in BMIN 705 Candidacy Portfolio Preparation during the semester in which they are working on their portfolio. The candidacy portfolio includes three 15 page essays, one in each of the following areas: (1) Issues, (2) Methods, (3) Practice. Each essay must include a bibliography of sources. The candidacy portfolio must be submitted within one semester after the candidate has completed 51 units of coursework.

Students are expected to consult with their committee members to determine the focus and direction of each of the three essays that constitute the candidacy portfolio, as well as the reading lists serving as the foundation for the papers. The candidacy portfolio is graded pass, fail, or pass with distinction. If the candidacy portfolio is deemed not passing, the committee decides if and when it may be resubmitted. Additional course work may be required before the student is eligible to resubmit the portfolio.

Additional guidelines and details regarding the candidacy portfolio can be found in the Buddhist Ministry Graduate Student Handbook.

A student advances to candidacy status upon successful completion of the candidacy portfolio requirement and payment of the candidacy fee. Candidacy status will lapse automatically if the student loses graduate standing by academic disqualification or failure to comply with university policy on continuous registration. A readmitted student who was a candidate must again advance to candidacy and thereafter enroll as a candidate for at least one academic semester before the degree may be conferred. Readmission after a break in enrollment is not guaranteed.

Research Training (Dissertation Project): Upon advancing to candidacy, the candidate enters the dissertation project phase and is eligible to undertake advanced graduate-level research, writing, and communication. While engaged in the dissertation project process, candidates are required to register for BMIN 698A, 698B, 710, or a combination of these courses for a total of 12 units.

Candidates are expected to begin work immediately on the dissertation project proposal, outlining their intended dissertation project. This project is expected to be an original piece of research that makes a relevant contribution in the area of Buddhist practice, translation, or philosophical/theological thought. Candidates may propose an alternative form of presentation other than a conventional 200-page written dissertation, but it must include a substantial amount of written analysis and be deemed equivalent to the standard dissertation model in terms of critical apparatus and engagement with scholarly sources. The mode of presentation must be clearly outlined in the dissertation project proposal.

The completed proposal is reviewed by the doctoral committee, after which candidates are asked to present their proposal and respond to questions from the committee at the proposal defense. During the defense, the committee decides whether the proposal is accepted, accepted with revisions, or rejected. Candidates are expected to submit the dissertation project proposal during the semester following their advancement to candidacy.

The doctoral committee supervises the student's program, approves the dissertation project, and conducts the oral dissertation project defense. Ordinarily, students defend the dissertation project just prior to its completion. Students must be in residence when defending. The defense should be scheduled during fall or spring semester and is open to all members of the academic community. Following the defense, the doctoral committee awards the dissertation project a pass, pass with distinction, or not pass.

After the dissertation project is passed by the doctoral committee, the student makes all necessary revisions and submits two copies, including one printed for binding, and one electronic, to the library in accordance with the library's formatting and binding guidelines. The revised dissertation project must be accepted by the library no later than one semester after the dissertation project defense. During this term, students are required to maintain continuous enrollment by enrolling in BMIN715.

In addition to these requirements, students must submit a portfolio of their work to the department for assessment and review. (Portfolio guidelines are found in the Buddhist Ministry Graduate Student Handbook.)

Important guidelines and procedures regarding the composition of the doctoral committee, dissertation project proposal, dissertation project defense, and final submission of the dissertation project can be found in the Buddhist Ministry Graduate Student Handbook.

Graduation Requirements

A minimum of 63 post-baccalaureate semester units in graduate courses as specified for each candidate by the doctoral committee appointed by the department chair or graduate advisor;

A minimum grade point average (GPA) of 3.0;

A Pass in the candidacy portfolio requirement, submitted when the student has completed a minimum of 51 units of doctoral course work;

A dissertation project demonstrating critical judgment, intellectual synthesis, creativity, and exemplary written or alternative modes of communication (with approval of the dissertation project committee).

Minimum Grade Requirement: Students must earn a minimum grade of B in all core courses and a minimum grade of C or P in elective courses. Students who do not earn a passing grade as specified may repeat that course one time only to achieve a passing grade.

Students may apply no more than 6 units (two courses) of Directed Reading & Research and 6 units (two courses) of independent study towards graduation. Students are allowed no more than 12 units of unfinished coursework (i.e. incompletes and withdrawals) over the duration of the program.

Transfer of Credit from Other Institutions: Students may be granted a maximum of 30 units of transfer credit for applicable graduate-level coursework towards the 51-unit course requirement. Courses with a B (3.0) or higher are eligible for consideration. Applicability is determined by the department chair or advisor.

Application of Credit from Prior UWest Enrollments: Students may apply toward the 51-unit course requirement a maximum of 36 units of graduate coursework completed at UWest in a master's level program or under open enrollment. Courses with a B (3.0) or higher are eligible for consideration. Applicability is determined by the department chair or advisor. Only graduate level coursework will be considered; however graduate courses previously applied to a bachelor's degree cannot be applied to graduation.

Residence Requirement: The Doctor of Buddhist Ministry requires a minimum of three years of full-time graduate study or the equivalent in part-time study in addition to time to prepare the dissertation project. Students are allowed a maximum of four years to complete required coursework and an additional three years to complete the dissertation project. The time allowed will be adjusted for students entering with transfer credit.

Continuous Enrollment: After finishing all coursework, but before submitting the dissertation project, students must maintain continuous enrollment until the dissertation project is successfully defended and submitted. Failure to register and pay the associated tuition and fees may interfere with residence requirements and lead to lapse of candidacy status.

Degrees are awarded at the close of the semester in which all requirements have been fulfilled, the dissertation project has been accepted by the library, the Petition to Graduate form has been filed with the Registrar's office, and the graduation fee has been paid.