

Master of Ministry Graduate Student Handbook

Program Description

The Master of Ministry program is designed to educate and accommodate students who live at a distance (often in ministry assignments). Courses are offered in one week intensives. Students are expected to engage in pre-course assignments and post course assignments. The curriculum has a strong emphasis on both academic rigor (preparation for possible continuation of graduate students) and practical ministry. Thirty six units are required to complete the Master of Ministry degree program.

The degree is designed around four central emphases which are highlighted in the core courses:

- Christian Formation
- Christian Scripture
- Church in Mission
- Christian Tradition

Each of these courses is paired with a course that focuses on ministry practice as electives:

- Leadership and Ministry
- Preaching and Teaching the Scripture
- Christian Mission in Local Contexts
- Wesleyan Theology and Contemporary Ministry

The remaining twelve units of electives may be earned by:

1. Transfer of coursework from Nazarene Theological Seminary*
2. Transfer of approved graduate-level course work
3. Cross-referenced graduate-level course work in the School of Theology and Christian Ministry
4. Registration in Christian Ministry Special Studies**

*Coursework from Nazarene Theological Seminary may be taken on PLNU's campus or through online/video conferencing options.

** Registration in Christian Ministry Special Studies consists of a student working directly with a PLNU faculty member to develop an individualized course. The course may be revolved around current or future work in the student's ministry and would further equip them to minister in their respective roles. Permission is required from the Dean of the School of Theology and Christian Ministry and the course faculty. The student must be in good academic standing.

Program Location and Structure

In order to accommodate students living at a distance and those working full time, all classes are conducted in a hybrid format which consists of eight weeks of online work and a one week intensive (Monday-Friday). All online coursework is completed through the university's Learning Management

System, *Canvas*. Students are expected to engage several times per week with their classmates and professor.

Faculty members who teach in the Master of Ministry program are housed within the School of Theology and Christian Ministry at the main PLNU campus, which is where all week intensives are taught.

Each week intensive is designed around lectures from PLNU faculty and experienced outside practitioners. The week intensives are open for ministry leaders not enrolled in the program to attend for continuing education units.

Housing

For each one week intensive, we are able to provide limited on campus housing which is available at a first come, first served basis. Rooming rates vary. Requests should be submitted via email to Nikki Botts. PLNU also partners with local hotels which offer discounts to those attending an event at the university. For further information, please visit the Bartell partnership website at: www.plnupartnership.com.

Admission

Admission for the program is on a rolling basis, so students may begin during fall, spring or summer. To apply to the Master of Ministry program you must:

- Have completed a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution
- Submit a completed application for admission to the program
- Submit official transcripts indicating approved undergraduate degree
- Complete an interview with the director of the Master of Ministry program
- Submit a writing sample which includes a statement of commitment to Christian values and to excellence in scholarship

Tuition

The current tuition rate for the Master of Ministry program is \$250/unit. This degree is among the lowest cost accredited programs of its kind. Additionally, the School of Theology and Christian Ministry is able to provide limited scholarship funds to qualifying students. Scholarship applications are distributed to admitted students in the spring of each year for awards to be applied to courses in the upcoming academic year.

Students enrolled in the Master of Ministry program are eligible for federal financial aid. To be eligible for federal aid you must complete and submit a FAFSA for each academic year.

Payment in full is due by the second Friday of each session. A late fee will be charged to a student account if balances are outstanding past the due date. Payment options are as follows:

- Send a check (with student ID number) to PLNU, Attn: Cashier, 3900 Lomaland Dr. San Diego, CA 92106.

- Pay by e-check online through the student portal
- Set up a Tuition Installment Plan*

Note: Credit cards are no longer an accepted form of payment.

*PLNU's Tuition Installment Plan (TIP) allows students to divide educational costs into two payments per quad without accruing interest or late fees, as long as payments are made on time and according to the contracted amounts. Enrollment fees apply, for further information please contact Student Financial Services.

Financial holds will be placed on all delinquent accounts, which may block access to certain University services, including registration, transcripts, commencement and diplomas.

Student Advisors

Upon being admitted to the Master of Ministry program, students are asked to select a three person advisory group to journey with them through the program. The purpose of the advisory group serves a two-fold purpose. The first purpose is to provide encouragement and support to each student. We expect that each advisor remains attentive to the student's needs, challenges and educational goals. The second purpose is to assist PLNU in assessing its Master of Ministry program by tracking the development of students as they move through the program. One way we do this is by obtaining advisor feedback from their observations about, and conversations with the student. We contact each advisor once a year to request feedback on the student's progress and growth.

Graduation

Students can finish the program at any point during the year, and are eligible to participate in the spring Commencement ceremony at PLNU's main campus. Graduation requirements include:

- A completed Application for Degree Candidacy
- A completed graduation application with appropriate approvals
- Successful completion of all core course requirements (12 units) and a minimum of 24 total units completed at PLNU
- Completion of a minimum of 36 units (including core courses)
- Cumulative grade-point average of 2.75 or higher
- All accounts are paid in full

All above requirements must be completed within an eight-year period from the time of initial enrollment in the program.

Master of Divinity Option

Students are able to earn their Master of Divinity through a partnership between Nazarene Theological Seminary and PLNU. As part of NTS' Multi-Campus Seminary initiative, students can take NTS coursework at PLNU. Master of Ministry coursework is transferrable toward completion of this degree.

All units taken as part of the Master of Ministry program will be charged at PLNU's rate of tuition. NTS coursework taken on PLNU's campus will count towards fulfilling the residency requirement of the MDiv degree.