



Distance Learning Master of Divinity

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How does Western Seminary prepare new Distance Learning students to be successful?

Once admitted, students are invited to a program preparation day where they encounter experienced students, meet faculty, and explore our educational software delivery system.

Are there specific times of the day or week when I must be online?

No, students may log on and learn at any convenient time. Students who are able to block out particular times in their weekly schedule to devote to their learning are those who are most successful. This flexibility must be balanced with regular weekly assignments.

How many hours a week do most students in this program spend learning?

Our Distance Learning students report that they spend an average of between 15-20 hours per week to be successful in meeting their educational goals.

May I work at my own pace in this degree program?

While there is flexibility for your online work, there are regular and often weekly assignments. Students are required to meet definite project and assignment due dates.

What is an Intensive?

An Intensive is a required two-week session in which all distance learning students come together on campus twice a year to learn, study and get to know each other. Various arrangements for lodging during our two week intensives are available, but ultimately it is up to the student. We will help you locate and reserve a setting that fits your budget and preferences.

May I take just one online course?

Only those who are admitted and are seeking a Master of Divinity degree may take courses in this program.

May I transfer academic credits from other educational institutions to my Distance Learning degree program at Western?

Yes! Transfer credit is awarded for course work completed at another seminary accredited through the Association of Theological Schools. Students who want to transfer into Western's M.Div. program must earn at least 30 semester credit hours in our degree program in order to graduate. Individual academic assessments determining transfer credits are calculated for those who complete an application and submit their transcripts.

I am not a member of the Reformed Church in America. May I apply?

We welcome you! Students from a variety of denominations and theological convictions enroll at Western Theological Seminary to prepare for ministry leadership.

How do I apply?

You may download a copy of an application, complete it and mail it to us. Please contact our admissions office with any questions that arise: admissions@westernsem.edu

When does the program start?

A new group of distance learners begins each year in early November. The application deadline is August 1. Entrance into this program is annual.

What technological equipment do I need to be successful?

A computer meeting the [required standards](#) will serve you well. While it is not required, a high-speed internet connection enhances the enjoyment of learning online.

Is technical or academic assistance available if I need it?

Absolutely! Student service support is available from full time staff members. Enrolled students may request help from a trained technician, a professor, a faculty advisor or an administrative assistant, depending on their need. Western Seminary is well known for our student care.

Does Western Seminary offer financial aid for distance learners?

Finances are often a major concern for students seeking to achieve a seminary education. We encourage our students to consider a variety of options available for financial aid. We invite you to contact our financial aid administrator, [Pat Dykhuis](#), with your specific needs or questions.

Is Western's D/L program accredited?

Western's Distance Learning Master of Divinity degree is accredited by the Association of Theological Schools (ATS) and is a cutting edge model that has also been praised by ATS.

Whom do I contact for more information?

Dr. Mark Poppen, Director of Admissions or Jill English, Admissions Associate at 1-800-392-8554 x135 or email admissions@westernsem.edu