

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD), Christian Leadership: Digital Communications & Community Engagement – 60 Hours

Our Digital Communications & Community Engagement degree is composed of 3 sections: core courses, digital outreach classes, and research courses. In the core courses, you will study biblical and theological foundations of leadership, biblical and theological foundations of education, and theological anthropology in leadership and education. You will also study character and ethics in leadership and education as well as management theory and organizational theory and development.

Program Outcomes

Upon completion of the **PhD Christian Leadership** program, students will be equipped to exercise effective leadership within an organization across an intentional framework of mission-driven leadership skills. Success will be demonstrated in the exercise of the following competencies:

1. Exercise of mission-driven leadership encourages and facilitates collaborative learning at all levels of the organization.
2. Application of a solid understanding of organizations that creates and maintains a productive community of learners.
3. Development of comprehensive organizational strategies using skills in evaluation, adaptation and integration of new and existing strategies for efficient and effective pursuit of organizational goals.
4. Recruitment, development, and mobilization of employees and volunteers as effective teams.
5. Coordination of board and administrative team activities for creation and maintenance of maximum organizational productivity.
6. Effective and prudent planning and oversight of all financial aspects of a nonprofit organization.
7. Development and management of a comprehensive, responsible risk management policy.

Christian Leadership: Digital Communications & Community Engagement

Total Credit Hours: 60

Program Length: 3–5 years

Delivery: Online

LEADERSHIP & THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATIONS (12 Credits)

PHD701 – Foundations of Christian Leadership Theory (3 credits)

Explores classical and contemporary leadership theories through a biblical and theological lens.

Emphasizes servant leadership, transformational leadership, and the integration of theology into ethical and visionary leadership practice.

PHD702 – Theology of Leadership & Public Witness (3 credits)

Examines the theological and ecclesiological implications of Christian leadership in the public square. Topics include the prophetic role of the church, witness in a pluralistic society, and the tension between kingdom values and cultural power structures.

PHD703 – Ethics in Leadership, Media, and Society (3 credits)

Addresses moral and ethical challenges in contemporary leadership, especially in media-driven contexts. Students will critically analyze leadership decisions and public communication using biblical ethics, virtue theory, and social responsibility.

PHD704 – Organizational Leadership in Church & Nonprofit Sectors (3 credits)

Focuses on strategic leadership within mission-driven organizations. Topics include governance, fiscal management, organizational change, board development, and aligning structure with vision in churches and nonprofits.

 DIGITAL COMMUNICATION, MEDIA & MINISTRY
(12 Credits)

PHD711 – Theology of Technology & Digital Discipleship (3 credits)

Introduces theological frameworks for understanding the role of technology in spiritual formation, worship, and community. Students evaluate the opportunities and limitations of digital platforms for discipleship and pastoral care.

PHD712 – Strategic Digital Communication for Ministry Leadership (3 credits)

Equips students with skills in crafting and executing digital communication strategies. Focus areas include branding, storytelling, digital evangelism, and online community-building within a theological framework.

PHD713 – Digital Content Creation & Media Ethics (3 credits)

Teaches the principles of creating engaging digital content for ministry while addressing ethical concerns like misinformation, platform dependency, and personal branding. Emphasizes integrity and creativity in media ministry.

PHD714 – Social Media, Influence & Gospel Witness in Online Spaces (3 credits)

Analyzes the influence of social media on faith expression, leadership, and public engagement. Students will develop strategies for authentic Christian witness, discernment, and culture-shaping in digital environments.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT, CULTURE & SOCIAL CHANGE (12 Credits)

PHD721 – Christian Community Engagement & Social Innovation (3 credits)

Examines how Christian leaders can foster social innovation and address systemic challenges through a gospel-centered approach. Topics include community organizing, faith-based entrepreneurship, and collaborative impact.

PHD722 – Cultural Intelligence & Contextual Ministry (3 credits)

Focuses on developing cultural awareness and sensitivity for effective ministry in diverse contexts. Students explore models of contextualization, intercultural communication, and theological approaches to cultural engagement.

PHD723 – Faith-Based Advocacy & Public Theology (3 credits)

Engages with the theory and practice of public theology and advocacy. Students explore how theological convictions inform civic engagement, policy advocacy, and prophetic witness in political and social spheres.

PHD724 – Global Christianity & Local Community Transformation (3 credits)

Explores the global-local dynamics of the Christian mission. Topics include globalization, migration, indigenous expressions of faith, and the role of local churches in holistic transformation.



RESEARCH METHODS & DOCTORAL SEMINARS (12 Credits)

PHD731 – Qualitative Research Methods in Ministry Contexts (3 credits)

Provides tools for conducting interviews, focus groups, ethnographies, and case studies in ministry settings. Emphasizes reflexivity, ethical considerations, and theological reflection in qualitative inquiry.

PHD732 – Quantitative & Mixed Methods Research (3 credits)

Introduces students to quantitative and mixed methods research, including survey design, data analysis, and statistical interpretation. Emphasizes application in leadership, organizational studies, and ministry effectiveness.

PHD733 – Doctoral Writing & Academic Publishing (3 credits)

Equips students with advanced writing skills for scholarly publishing. Covers dissertation structure, literature reviews, argumentation, and preparing journal articles and conference papers.

PHD734 – Leadership Theory Integration Seminar (3 credits)

A synthesis seminar focused on the integration of leadership theories with theology and ministry

practice. Students reflect on their personal leadership philosophy and prepare for dissertation development.



DISSERTATION PROCESS (12 Credits)

PHD790 – Dissertation Proposal Development (3 credits)

Guides students through the process of formulating a research question, conducting a literature review, and preparing a formal dissertation proposal. Includes peer review and faculty mentorship.

PHD791 – Dissertation Research I (3 credits)

Initiates the first stage of dissertation research, including data collection, theological reflection, and methodological refinement. Emphasis on accountability and advisor feedback.

PHD792 – Dissertation Research II (3 credits)

Continues with data analysis, theological integration, and drafting of dissertation chapters. Students are expected to produce a substantial portion of the final manuscript.

PHD799 – Dissertation Defense & Final Project (3 credits)

Students complete and defend their dissertation before a faculty panel. This course includes final revisions, public presentation, and submission of the completed research project.