

Advancement to Candidacy
Doctor of Ministry (DMin) Program

Participants in the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) program begin with a conditional status, and spend the first two years preparing for advancement to candidacy. Only those who successfully meet the criteria for advancement will continue in the track towards dissertation completion and graduation. Those who do not advance will have the option to either earn the graduate certificate or discontinue as a participant in the program.

The candidate will be reviewed approximately one and two months prior to the third-year intensives. The review team will include the advisor, second reader, concentration coordinator and either the director or associate director of the program. The candidate will be present at the meeting, and may be asked questions about the project and the content of chapters 2 and 3.

The following requirements will be the basis for the team's decision.

1. Any stipulations that were required for admission to the program must be satisfied by the date of the review, and all required transcripts must be received by the Andrews University Graduate Enrollment Office.
2. The second-year proposal indicates that the candidate is addressing a significant ministry issue that is conducive to doctoral level work.
3. Chapters 2 (theological reflection) and 3 (literature review) must be approved by the advisor and second reader at least two weeks prior to this review.
4. The chapters must indicate doctoral level competency in:
 - a. Academic writing
 - b. Skills in formatting and style

- c. Critical thinking and logic
 - d. The ability to create coherent arguments based upon solid evidence and sound reasoning.
5. The participant must demonstrate the self-discipline needed for success in the DMin program by indicating the number of hours spent weekly on doctoral work and the timely submission of assignments for classes in the first and second years.

Participants who successfully pass the review will advance to candidacy and have permission to complete the dissertation and project. Those who are denied advancement will have two options:

1. Take the third- and fourth-year classes, seeking to earn the graduate certificate (a minimum of a B average for all classes is required). They will not be required to take the GSEM 793 (research methods class) nor GSEM 796 (dissertation credits), nor will they work anymore on the dissertation or project. The service of their advisor and second reader will also cease at this time.
2. Discontinue involvement in the DMin program.

The decision of the review team may be appealed to the DMin Committee for a final determination.