



ROCHESTER
UNIVERSITY

THEOLOGY & MINISTRY



Degree Options

Christian Ministry	<i>Available as a:</i> Major • Minor • Interdisciplinary Studies Concentration
Biblical Studies	<i>Available as a:</i> Minor • Interdisciplinary Studies Concentration
Theology	<i>Available as a:</i> Minor

RU's ministry degrees are unique in that they train ministers for the church as it will be in a few years, not the church as it has been in the past.

We think about ministry less as a series of church-related tasks that must be accomplished and more as an ongoing process of learning to lead and listen in congregational discernment, in relationship to the ongoing mission of a living God.

All degrees have a mix of Bible, theology, history and ministry courses. We aim for education that focuses on the formation of the whole person and provide opportunities to connect outside the classroom in departmental chapels, retreats, game nights and bonfires. Students are also encouraged to serve RU's community by hosting worship services and other events.

OUR FOCUS



CHRISTIAN STORY

You will evaluate ministry decisions in light of historical and global interpretations of the central themes of the Christian story.



HOSPITABLE LEADERSHIP

You will partner with communities of faith in discerning and joining the work of God in God's world.



CONTEXTUAL DISCOVERY

You will approach ministry contexts from a variety of perspectives, including theological, sociological and anthropological.



SCRIPTURE

You will interpret scripture contextually and theologically for the sake of local communities of faith and God's world.



GOD-CENTERED IDENTITY

You will operate from a God-centered identity and a dynamic sense of calling.



WORLD ENGAGEMENT

You will recognize God's presence and join His activity in unexpected places of His world.

Ministry Core

- Interpreting the Old Testament
- Interpreting the New Testament
- Ministry Life
- Theology of Ministry
- The Congregation

- Practical Issues in Ministry
- Spiritual Formation
- History and Theology of the Christian Tradition
- Upper-division Biblical Text

Ministry Electives

- Pastoral Care
- Ministry of the Word
- Theology of Worship
- Introduction to Youth Ministry
- Family Life Ministry

- Special Topics in Bible
- Special Topics in Ministry
- Special Topics in Religion
- Special Topics in Theology



Christian Ministry '17

BREANNA MIHALOVICH

“The professors at RU are extremely helpful and want nothing more than to see you succeed in and outside of the classroom. The classes prepared me to think about how my vocation allows me to participate in the reconciliation of the world to God on a local and global context. I learned the church is not the only place where ministry occurs. I was given more freedom to choose a career path that didn’t look like typical ‘ministry,’ but still allowed me to participate in the reconciling work of God’s Kingdom, leading to my acceptance into the United States Peace Corps.”



Biblical Studies '12

JOE CRABB

“I would recommend RU’s program to anyone thinking about going into ministry. Since I graduated from RU, I have been employed at Woodside Bible Church in Troy, Michigan, as the student ministry pastor. Several courses and professors were instrumental to my development. One of the things I enjoyed most about my ministry and religion professors is they clearly taught and lived out the Gospel.”



Christian Ministry '19

JESSICA BURROWS

“I loved studying ministry at RU. The professors were all genuinely invested in students’ lives, encouraging us intellectually and spiritually. What I appreciated the most is seeing professors practice what they preach with students. This made my educational experience much more meaningful. I am currently leading worship at an area church. However, my time at RU helped me discover that I would be comfortable doing a wide range of ministry jobs. I am thankful I was able to learn and grow within the RU community.”

THE RU ADVANTAGE

As you begin your studies at RU, you will start making connections between your past experiences and present opportunities for the purpose of discovering and shaping your identity. Throughout your academic journey, you will continually engage with the world around you and create a plan to use your experiences, knowledge and skills to discover and develop pathways to purpose and meaning. The story of God will be woven throughout your studies at RU, and you will continually reflect on how you can participate in God’s mission in the world. As you approach graduation, you will apply your accumulated knowledge and experiences to a specific project and share the results with RU’s academic community. The result of this work is well-educated and compassionate ministers who are able to serve communities of faith from the foundation of a God-centered identity.

Rise Together. Stand Apart.

This tagline represents who we are; the following core distinctives show how we deliver on this identity.



INSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Academic Philosophy | EPIC

Exploring. Preparing. Integrating. Calling.

We believe every student has a unique story worth telling. In fact, we think your story can be epic. Our courses are designed to help you explore, prepare, integrate (connect and apply knowledge) and find your calling – while helping you succeed.

RochesterU.edu/epic



OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

Mentoring Program | RISE

Relationship. Inspiration. Support. Engagement.

RISE begins during your freshman year and helps you build meaningful relationships with alumni, friends of the institution, faculty and staff. Mentors serve as positive role models who provide valuable guidance, support and encouragement as you navigate the challenges of transitioning from high school to college, then academic to professional life.

RochesterU.edu/rise



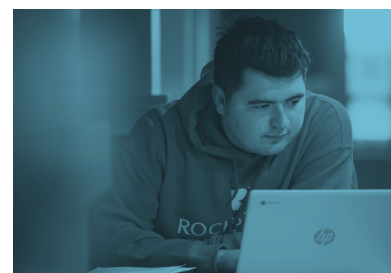
BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

Loan Repayment Assistance Program | RU Pledge

Pursue your passions without the burden of debt.

All incoming RU freshmen are eligible for the RU Pledge, our innovative loan repayment assistance program (LRAP) that provides quarterly reimbursement of federal, private and parent PLUS loan payments if you earn less than \$50,000 per year after graduation.

RochesterU.edu/pledge



A degree is just the beginning.

Graduates are well prepared for several roles in Christian ministry, including preaching, ministry in urban congregations, working with para-church organizations, youth ministry, worship ministry and teaching. Graduates also find positions at Christian youth camps, senior care facilities, and within schools and communities. The degree also provides a foundation for graduate studies in seminary or other graduate programs in theology. RU offers a Master of Religious Education degree in Missional Leadership.



FACULTY

NAOMI WALTERS

Chair—Department of Theology & Ministry
Associate Professor of Ministry
B.S., Rochester University
M.Div., Abilene Christian University
D.Min., Lipscomb University

KEITH HUEY

Professor of Church History and Theology
B.A., Lubbock Christian University
M.Div., Harding University
Harding School of Theology
Ph.D., Marquette University

GREGORY STEVENSON

Professor of New Testament
B.A., Harding University
M.Div., Harding School of Theology
Ph.D., Emory University

1,014
students
from **22** states
& **16** nations

CNN's Money Magazine
recognized Rochester as one of
the top places to live and the very
BEST IN all
of MICHIGAN!

average
CLASS
SIZE of
16

OUR CAMPUS IS 68 PRISTINE ACRES
LOCATED A SHORT WALK FROM DOWNTOWN ROCHESTER

and no more than 30 miles from... MUSEUMS · MARKETS · MALLS · CONCERTS
PRO SPORTS · THE AUTOMOTIVE SCENE · OUTDOOR ADVENTURE
FOOD TRUCKS + FINE DINING · WORLD CLASS ENTERTAINMENT
natural beauty, and all kinds of other fun to discover

Rochester Hills has been named one of the
100 SAFEST CITIES IN THE US

97%
OF ROCHESTER
UNIVERSITY
GRADUATES
are employed or continuing their education within a year of graduation

take the next step

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» Visit RochesterU.edu/cost for an estimate on the cost of attending RU and your possible financial aid.

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