

What is the Difference Between “Theology, Divinity, and Ministry” Titles? **(A Summit Bible College clarification written on: 10-10-7 Rev. 11-26-18)**

A “**Theology**” degree designates that the student will be majoring in one area in particular; for example, a theology degree with emphasis in Pastoral Studies or Counseling. With this comes the necessity of core classes. (Summit it is 50% of the course load at the program level, in that subject.)

If the student desires a degree with “**Divinity**” in the title, this indicates that the student will be taking a broader selection of classes. For example, at Summit Bible College, if 10 classes are due, then the student would take 2 from each of the 5 categories: Counseling, Leadership, Missions, Worship, and Christian Studies.

The “**Ministry**” title is a designation that the student will likely be working in a practical, specific area of ministry. The intent of the student is that it is a more practical degree for ministry, rather than for other positions such as for a position as a professor at a college. A student at could have a “Ministry” major for programs in Leadership or Counseling, as in the example above for Theology but the student would achieve a Bachelor, Master or Doctorate degree in one of the any designated area with the thought that they would be working in ministry in that specific area, such as Youth Ministry or the like. In these types of cases, colleges like SBC offer classes that rely on ministry experience or internship. A course like this may be called “Internship” or “Practicum”. The practicum is usually only required if a student does not have experience, in their major area of ministry. To accomplish this, they will intern with someone as a mentor in their home town and journal their experiences for a quarter or more.

Does the Title Matter?

When you are serving the Lord, ministries are usually not as particular about the title of your degree as they are in your abilities. Titles may have a specific need for positions at colleges, denominational churches, chaplaincy, counseling, coaching, or with corporate employers. Ask perspective employers which degree they require for specific positions. Usually, a Theology degree may be highly desired at a college that needs a professor well versed in theological positions, or denominational church that wants an authority on theological issues. However, the same positions at other colleges or churches may be for a Divinity degree because they plan to use your ability to teach in several areas, or as in a church they may want you to have knowledge of several areas. Some institutions may want you to have practical ministry experience and therefore a Minister title may be better for your degree.

Student Responsibility

It is up to the student to consider the choice of the title of the degree (not the college such as SBC). The student should pray about areas God has put on their heart and plan accordingly. Let your advisor know ahead of time and notify the college if you have a specific purpose in the title. Make sure you do it before 50% of your classes are completed. If not, your selection of your classes will dictate the type of designation you will have. If over 50% of your classes have been completed before you declare the type of degree you want, you may have to add additional classes which requires extra time and money.