

MASTER OF DIVINITY (MDiv) incorporating**GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF DIVINITY (GradDipDiv)****RATIONALE AND AIMS OF THE COURSE:****(a) Aim and Perceived Need**

The aim of the degree is to guide graduate students in a systematic manner to the acquisition of the body of coherent knowledge that is the classical discipline of theology as a means not only of preparing men and women for the responsibility of communicating Christian knowledge but also for advanced degrees in theology and ministry.

(b) Occupational Functions of Graduates

- teacher or ordained minister in a congregation with responsibility for preaching, teaching, and preparing people for church membership,
- pastor with responsibility for providing leadership in various ministry and pastoral care contexts,
- leader able to take part in wider debates in the church, the denomination, or society with respect to interpreting and mediating the Christian tradition in the modern world,
- leader preparing for higher degrees in theology and ministry,
- teacher of diploma level units in the graduate's specialisation in a theological or Bible college.

(c) Skills, Knowledge, and Attitudes Acquired by Graduates

- ability to interpret and critically evaluate the biblical deposit, especially those books which have played a crucial role in the development of the Christian tradition, with a comprehensive knowledge of their original context and their major themes and ideas,
- comprehensive and critical understanding of and ability to exegete biblical texts in their original language(s),
- comprehensive and critical understanding of the major theological tenets of the Christian faith which underpin any coherent theological world view and philosophy of ministry,
- skills in at least one area of pastoral ministry,
- comprehensive and critical understanding of the historical conditions under which theological worldviews have developed and are being shaped today,
- openness to the tradition of published scholarship and the diversity of viewpoints which characterise that scholarship in the various fields of the discipline of theology as essential to understanding and respecting the discipline and as an integral part of the preparation for communicating the Christian tradition and contributing to the on-going enterprise of the community of scholars in the articulation and actualisation of the Christian faith.

(d) Learning and Teaching Strategies

- mastering the underlying principles and concepts of the biblical deposit and church history, as presented in the core foundational units, based on a critical evaluation of the primary sources and an empathetic engagement with the major published scholars,
- once that foundation has been laid, engaging students in biblical exegesis in the original language, the major theological doctrines, and the further study of church history, in a way that demonstrates the ability to analyse and critically evaluate primary sources and ideas and an understanding of their setting and historical context,
- requiring a substantial exit project for those seeking to articulate to the research masters degree in order to demonstrate a student's ability to undertake research at postgraduate level in a particular field of study,
- requiring students to prepare for particular pastoral care and other practical ministry opportunities to demonstrate the skills needed to operate in those spheres,
- expecting students at each level and in each unit to engage with and critically evaluate the major published scholars and the major documents—contemporary, historical, and biblical—such that study is a dialogue between scholars, teachers, peers, the central texts of the Christian faith and the students' contemporary social context,
- whether in attendance or flexible mode, teaching takes place within the environment of a community of scholarship, such a context for learning being essential to the acquisition of theological knowledge since preparation for teaching and pastoral leadership demands communal reflection and dialogue about the knowledge being imparted together with its ministry implications,
- demanding teachers themselves to be well-informed in their field of expertise, having been tested at postgraduate research level, committed to a faith community, and embodying openness to ideas, respect for the wider Christian tradition, and the communal search for truth in a rapidly changing social environment,
- teaching strategies employed throughout the course include not only traditional lectures but also seminar presentations, input from specialist adjunct lecturers, and the use of audio, video and IT resources where available.

Note:

25% (i.e. 24 cps) of the MDiv must be taken in distinct graduate level units at 500–600 and/or 700 level. Refer to the Policy section of the ACT website.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND ASSUMED KNOWLEDGE:**(a) Educational Qualifications for Admission**

The College will consider an applicant for admission to the GradDipDiv/MDiv if the applicant:

- (i) has graduated with or qualified for [at least] a bachelor degree or equivalent qualification in a non-theological discipline from an Australian university or other approved higher education provider; or
- (ii) has successfully completed study deemed equivalent to (i).

In addition, consideration will also be given to other factors such as maturity and motivation, and the likelihood of satisfactory completion of the academic requirements of the course.

(b) English Qualifications

Except for those candidates who have a tertiary qualification taught in English, international candidates whose first language is not English will be required to sit an IELTS test. For candidates wishing to enrol in the MDiv degree, an average of 7.0, with at least 7.0 for reading and writing, and 6.0 for listening and speaking is required.

(c) Mature Age Entry

There is no mature age entry provision on the understanding that applicants are already graduates.

(d) Assumed Knowledge

It is assumed that applicants will have the knowledge associated with one academic discipline to first degree level and the academic skills of evaluation and analysis of the content of learning and the secondary literature relevant to that content, acquired during the course of their previous studies.

(e) Distance Learning

Up to 33% of the MDiv can be taken in *non-attendance* or *flexible* mode in addition to the following regulation concerning final year students.

In exceptional circumstances, if a student has completed all but 16 cps in the MDiv, the remainder of the degree may be taken in distance or flexible mode provided that the reasons for the application are exceptional and the student's college approves and can provide adequate support and resources for the student. Each case will be considered on its own merit.

CREDIT TRANSFER:

(a) Principles

- (i) ACT policies with respect to articulation conform to the National Policy Guidelines set forth in AQF documents.
- (ii) The ACT regards the qualifications awarded by the affiliated colleges of the Committee of Deans of Theological Consortia as equivalent to its own, assuming that prerequisites for entry to an ACT award are met.
- (iii) The ACT regards accredited degrees in theology and ministry awarded by registered providers in Australia as equivalent to its own degrees assuming that prerequisites for entry to an ACT award are met.

- (iv) Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) applications for admission to the course or applications for transfer of credit will be dealt with initially by approved colleges and then by the Dean of the ACTh before final approval is granted. Applications for credit based on recognition of prior learning will be considered in accordance with the guidelines published in "National Principles and Operational Guidelines for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)" (AQF, 2004).
- (v) Units already passed more than 10 years previously at VET, 200 or 300-400 level could be retaken at 500-600 level.
- (vi) There would be no exemption for units at 500-600 level from study completed more than 10 years previously.
- (vii) If the study was completed less than 10 years prior, the ACT *may* grant up to 32 cps in exemption.

(b) Admission with Advanced Standing: from completed awards

Qualified Graduate Diploma of Divinity or Graduate Diploma of Christian Studies graduates may receive up to 32 cps advanced standing in the MDiv. Students transferring to the MDiv would need to surrender their diploma.

(c) Admission with Advanced Standing: from incomplete awards

Applications for Advanced Standing from incomplete non-ACT awards will not be considered if the units were completed more than ten years previously.

- (i) No credit can be claimed for units completed at certificate, diploma or undergraduate degree level except LA001-004.
- (ii) Students yet to complete the Graduate Diploma of Christian Studies who seek to transfer to the MDiv/GradDipDiv may have all the completed units transferred subject to the requirements of the MDiv/GradDipDiv.

(d) Articulation for Graduates to Higher ACT Awards

- (i) Qualified Graduate Diploma of Divinity graduates may receive up to 32 cps advanced standing in the Master of Divinity and, in addition, will need to meet the academic requirements of the MDiv degree. Students transferring to the MDiv would need to surrender their diploma.
- (ii) Graduates of the MDiv may articulate to the Master of Arts (Theology) or Master of Arts (Ministry) of the ACT.
- (iii) Master of Divinity graduates with a GPA of 2.8 overall and a Distinction grade in the 8 cp project may become candidates for the MTh degree as long as the sponsoring college is satisfied that the applicant has the potential to write an extended piece of research.
- (iv) Students with a completed Master of Divinity degree who have complete 700 level units in their

MDiv degree may be given advanced standing into the MA coursework awards for up to 16 cps.

COURSE STRUCTURE AND CURRICULUM:

(a) Duration of Course and Modes of Delivery

- (i) The MDiv is a three-year full-time course. This is the minimum time of candidature without advanced standing. The maximum time for candidature is nine years. Candidates may study full-time (three years) or part-time (to a maximum of nine years).
- (ii) The nested one-year full-time Graduate Diploma of Divinity must be completed within eight semesters (four years) if studied part-time.
- (iii) All students in the MDiv must be enrolled in an approved institution of the College.
- (iv) Units can be delivered in attendance and, where approved, in flexible mode.

(b) Course Structure and Progression

Master of Divinity

All students must complete 96 credit points, made up of the following core studies:

- Languages—at least 8 cps of biblical language study comprising either LA003 or LA004
- Old Testament Introduction—8 cps, OT501, OT502
- New Testament Introduction—8 cps, NT501, NT502
- Church History—8 cps, including at least one from CH501 – CH505 (students taking CH505 must complete either CH502 or an advanced level CH unit).

In addition all students must complete the following:

- Minimum of 16 cps in Old Testament *and* New Testament exegesis, including at least 8 cps in original language exegesis.
- Minimum of 16 cps in Christian Thought, including at least 12 cps in Theology at 600 level.
- Minimum of 8 cps in Ministry and Practice.
- Maximum of 16 cps comprising either Type A electives or a mixture of Type A and up to 12 cps of Type B electives, 8 if SEBL is included.

While not compulsory to graduate in the MDiv, the project (8cps) is compulsory for those students seeking to articulate to the research masters degree (MTh).

The unit Supervised Experienced Based Learning is an integrative unit taken over the course of a candidate's MDiv program if the unit is to be included in a candidate's program of study.

Type A and Type B electives are defined in section 8.6 of the Regulations section at the beginning of this Handbook.

Graduate Diploma of Divinity

All students must complete 32 credit points made up of the following:

- minimum 8 cps in core foundational level units in OT and/or NT,
- minimum 4 cps in Church History or Theology,
- a further 20 cps of units from the 500–600 pool.

While there are no pre-requisites governing the choice of units it is recommended that students adhere to the pre-requisites or co-requisites that apply to the MDiv in their unit selection. Students should also be guided by the advice of their college.

If awarded the Graduate Diploma of Divinity will need to be surrendered if the student were to proceed to satisfy the requirements of the MDiv.

(c) Requirements for Progression and Graduation

Master of Divinity

- (i) Advanced (600) level units with specific conditions may only be taken when the pre-requisite or co-requisite or required units have been successfully completed and/or any co-requisite unit is taken concurrently.
- (ii) 700 level units may be taken once 64 cps have been successfully completed. Students can claim credit for up to two 700 level units in the MA(Th) or MA(Min) from successfully completed 700 level units in their MDiv program.
- (iii) No more than 40 cps of foundational level units can be counted in a student's course of study. Biblical Hebrew (LA003) and New Testament Greek (LA004) are excluded from this requirement.

(d) Development of Practical Skills

- (i) Approved institutions are responsible for ensuring that all units of a practical nature are taught and students supervised by competent practitioners who are either members of the full-time faculty or well-qualified adjunct lecturers.
- (ii) If taken the focus of the unit Supervised Experience Based Learning (PC649) is reflection, self-evaluation and growth planning in relation to personal spiritual growth through college activities or ministry experience.

REGULATIONS:

- Students must not enrol in more than 20 cps in any one semester.
- Greek or Hebrew exegesis requires satisfactory completion of the relevant 8 cp Hebrew or Greek language unit.
- 25% (i.e. 24 cps) of the MDiv course must be taken in distinct graduate level units at 500, 600 or 700 level. Colleges are expected to verify that this requirement is met for each MDiv graduate.

ASSESSMENT:

All foundational level core units require a minimum 80 minutes written exam. The exam is worth 50%.

WORD EQUIVALENCE:

Units offered at 500 level require the completion of 5,000-6000 words or equivalent.

Units offered at 600 level require the completion of 6,000-7000 words or equivalent.

4 cp seminars (**689) require the completion of 7,000 words or equivalent.

8 cp projects (**690) require the completion of 8,000 words or equivalent.

4 cp projects (**650) require the completion of 6,000-7,000 words or equivalent.

Each exam hour is reckoned as the equivalent of 1,500 words.

**MDIV/GRADDIPDIV UNIT LIST:****Note:**

Units marked by an asterisk (*) can count for credit in one other field of study (but not both) of the same award.

Bible & Languages**Languages (LA)**

LA001	Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (4 cp)	55
LA002	Introduction to New Testament Greek (4 cp)	55
LA003A	Biblical Hebrew A	55
LA003B	Biblical Hebrew B	56
LA004A	New Testament Greek A	56
LA004B	New Testament Greek B	57
LA610	Intermediate Greek	57
LA611	Intermediate Hebrew	58
LA650	Project (4 cp)	194
LA690	Project (8 cp)	194

Old Testament (OT)

OT501	Old Testament Foundations	61
OT502	Old Testament Prophets and Writings	61
* OT503	Principles of Hermeneutics	62
OT620	Pentateuch (Eng)	62
OT621	Former Prophets (Eng)	63
OT622	Eighth Century Prophets (Eng)	64
OT623	Exilic Prophecy (Eng)	65
OT624	Wisdom Literature (Eng)	66
OT625	Old Testament Apocalyptic & Post-exilic Prophecy (Eng)	66
OT626	The Psalter (Eng)	67
OT627	Isaiah (Eng)	68
OT628	Jeremiah (Eng)	68
OT630	The Pentateuch (Heb)	69
OT631	Former Prophets (Heb)	70
OT632	Eighth Century Prophets (Heb)	70

OT633	Exilic Prophecy (Heb)	71
OT634	Wisdom Literature (Heb)	72
OT635	Old Testament Apocalyptic & Post-exilic Prophecy (Heb)	73
OT636	The Psalter (Heb)	73
OT637	Isaiah (Heb)	74
OT638	Jeremiah (Heb)	75
*OT646	Archaeology and the Bible	
OT650	Project (4 cp)	194
OT689	Old Testament Seminar	75
OT690	Project (8 cp)	194

New Testament (NT)

NT501	Content and Setting of the Gospel Tradition	78
NT502	The Early New Testament Church	78
NT620	The Synoptic Gospels (Eng)	80
NT621	Paul and Corinthian Christianity (Eng)	81
NT622	The Epistle to the Hebrews (Eng)	82
NT624	The Fourth Gospel (Eng)	82
NT625	Pauline Theology & Romans (Eng)	83
NT626	General Epistles (Eng)	84
NT627	New Testament Apocalyptic (Eng)	85
NT628	Other Writings (Eng)	86
NT629	Romans (Eng)	87
NT630	The Synoptic Gospels (Grk)	88
NT631	Paul and Corinthian Christianity (Grk)	89
NT632	The Epistle to the Hebrews (Grk)	90
NT634	The Fourth Gospel (Grk)	90
NT635	Pauline Theology & Romans (Grk)	91
NT636	General Epistles (Grk)	92
NT637	New Testament Apocalyptic (Grk)	93
NT638	Other Writings (Grk)	94
NT639	Romans (Grk)	95
* NT645	The Bible in Context	96
NT650	Project (4 cp)	194
NT689	New Testament Seminar	96
NT690	Project (8 cp)	194

Christian Thought**Theology (TH)**

TH504	Introduction to Systematic Theology	98
TH505	Foundational Christian Beliefs	99
TH601	The Knowledge of God	100
TH602	The Doctrine of God & The Work of Christ	101
TH603	The Doctrines of Grace & Eschatology	102
TH604	Church, Sacraments & Ministry	105
TH610	The Westminster Confession	106
TH620	Theological Issues of the Reformation	106
TH621	God as Trinity	107
TH632	Major Christian Doctrines	109
TH650	Project (4 cp)	194
TH689	Theology Seminar	110
TH690	Project (8 cp)	194

Church History (CH)

CH501	The Church to 1550	111
CH502	The Church from 1550 to Modern Times	112
CH503	The Church in the First Three Centuries	114
CH504	Church and Empire (313-451)	115
CH505	Early Church History (30-451)	115
CH609	Australian Church History	116
CH621	The Continental Reformation	118
CH622	The Reformation in Britain	119
CH624	The Reformation in Europe & Britain	120

CH625	History of Evangelical Christianity	121	PC629	Contemporary Trends in Spirituality	171
CH645	Reformation History in Context	122	PC634	Leadership in Christian Ministry	172
CH650	Project (4 cp)	194	PC635	Principles of Leadership & Management	172
CH689	Church History Seminar	123	PC636	Clinical Pastoral Education	173
CH690	Project (8 cp)	194	PC640	Communication Principles	174
Philosophy and Ethics (PE)			PC642	Congregational Field Education	175
PE501	Introduction to Christian Ethics	123	PC643	Pastoral Care Field Education	176
PE510	Christian Worldview	125	PC644	Practical Ministry Field Education	177
PE602	Theological Ethics	126	PC647	Introductory Preaching	178
PE603	Christian Social Ethics	129	PC648	Advanced Preaching	180
PE617	Church in Australian Society	130	PC649a	Supervised Experience Based Learning A	181
PE620	Christian Apologetics	132	PC649b	Supervised Experience Based Learning B	181
PE625	Philosophy of Religion	133	PC649c	Supervised Experience Based Learning C	181
PE626	Issues in Philosophy of Religion	134	PC649d	Supervised Experience Based Learning D	181
PE650	Project (4 cp)	194	PC650	Project (4 cp)	194
PE688	Ethics Seminar	137	PC689	Pastoral & Church Focussed Ministry Seminar	181
PE689	Philosophy Seminar	137	PC690	Project (8 cp)	194
PE690	Project (8 cp)	194	Developmental Ministry (DM)		
Ministry & Practice			DM501	Foundations for Christian Education	182
Evangelism and Missiology (EM)			DM502	Ministry Formation for Chaplaincy	183
EM501	Mission Perspectives	137	DM510	Foundations for Youth Ministry	184
EM502	History of Christian Missions	139	DM520	Introduction to Church-based Children's Ministry	185
EM505	Theology of Mission	140	DM603	Adult Christian Education	186
EM506	Issues in Missiology	141	DM604	Christian Education in Practice	186
EM524	Principles of Evangelism	142	DM611	Youth in the Churches	187
EM603	Biblical Theology of Mission	143	DM612	Youth: Context, Development & Learning	188
EM604	Contemporary Theology of Mission	143	DM613	Ministry with Non-Church Youth	189
EM608	Cross Cultural Communication	144	DM614	Chaplaincy in Educational Settings	190
EM609	Cultural Anthropology	145	DM621	Issues in Children's Ministry	191
EM610	Aid & Development	146	DM630	Australian Families & the Church	192
EM611	Mission in the Urban Context	147	DM641	Youth Ministry Field Education	192
EM615	Christian Ministry in Islamic Contexts	148	DM642	Children's Ministry Field Education	193
EM617	Spiritual Formation for Cross Cultural Ministry	149	DM650	Project (4 cp)	194
EM618	Ministry in A Culturally Diverse Context	150	DM689	Christian Education Seminar	193
EM620	Study of Religion	151	DM690	Project (8 cp)	194
EM621	Living Faiths	152	◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆		
EM622	Alternative Religious Movements	152	Type B Electives		
EM625	Applied Evangelism	153	Bible College of Queensland		
EM626	Church Planting	154	BQP61	Adventures in Prayer	
EM627	Church Dynamics & Growth	155	Morling College		
EM635	Linguistics & Language Learning	156	MOP61	Theology and Counselling	
EM640	Cross Cultural Field Education	158	MOP62	Introduction to Group Processes in Counselling	
EM641	Evangelism Field Education	158	Presbyterian Theological Centre		
EM650	Project (4 cp)	194	PNC61	Australian Presbyterianism in its International Context	
EM689	Evangelism and Missiology Seminar	159	Presbyterian Theological College		
EM690	Project (8 cp)	194	PVM61	Folk Religions	
Pastoral & Church Focussed Ministry (PC)			PVM62	Ethnographic Research	
PC501	Ministry Formation	159	Queensland Theological College		
PC515	Christian Worship	160	CRN51	The Cross and the Clash of First-Century Culture	
PC527	Patterns of Spiritual Formation	161			
PC530	Christian Spirituality	162			
PC602	Foundations of Pastoral Care	163			
PC603	Pastoral Skills & Methods	163			
PC605	Principles of Christian Counselling	165			
PC606	Applied Christian Counselling	166			
PC608	Spiritual Formation for Pastoral Ministry	166			
PC609	Professional Ethics in Ministry	167			
PC616	Denominational Distinctives	168			
PC621	Theology for Everyday Life	169			
PC628	The Christian Spiritual Tradition	170			

Ridley Melbourne

- RYC62 History, Identity, Mission and Ministry of Anglicanism
RYP61 Educating, Forming and Training Others for Ministry

Reformed Theological College

- RDP51 Principles of Preaching
RDP62A The Practice of Preaching A
RDP62B The Practice of Preaching B
RDP62C The Practice of Preaching C
RDP62D The Practice of Preaching D

Sydney Missionary and Bible College

- SMM61 Cross Cultural Teaching and Learning
SMM62 Local Church and Global Mission
SMM63 Global Issues in Mission
SMP62 Preaching for Today's Church

Vose Seminary

- WAT51 Foundations of Theology

