

MASTER OF ARTS (THEOLOGY)*incorporating***THE GRADUATE DIPLOMA OF THEOLOGY****1. Rationale and Aims of the Course:****(a) Aim and Perceived Need**

The course is designed to provide graduates in theology, including those who are practitioners in ministry, the opportunity to undertake study at coursework masters level, thus consolidating and enhancing the areas of speciality, or proceeding to new areas of professional and vocational expertise on the foundation of their first degree in theology.

(b) Occupational Functions of Graduates

- church leaders, pastors, and other practitioners who have consolidated their studies in their first degree in theology or ministry, having had the opportunity to concentrate on one field of study throughout the course,
- practitioners who have developed new areas of professional and vocational expertise, having built on the foundation of their first degree in theology or ministry,
- teachers of foundational undergraduate degree units in the graduate's area of specialisation.

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

- ability successfully to negotiate the content and demands of a number of units in a specialised field of study in which theological insights are brought to bear upon the graduates' ministry context,
- demonstration of knowledge and competence of skills in the analysis of texts and ideas,
- demonstration of wide reading, intellectual independence, critical thinking and analytic rigour at early postgraduate level such that the potential for research at masters level is emerging.

(d) Learning and Teaching Strategies

- preparation of papers, often taking into account the existing literature on the topic, to be read in seminar sessions for critique by teachers and peers,
- the writing of substantial essays for assessment in which arguments are sustained by evidence, and there is a demonstration of reading across a variety of viewpoints which are empathetically reported,
- the testing of a student's readiness for postgraduate research at masters level by the conducting of an exit piece of research in one field of study for which the candidate is well-prepared by his/her engagement in the coursework program.

2. Admission Requirements and Assumed Knowledge:**(a) Educational Qualifications for Admission**

- (i) Open as a degree to persons who hold the College's BTh or BMin.
- (ii) Open as a degree to persons who are graduates in theology or ministry from a recognised provider considered equivalent to the College's BTh or BMin.
- (iii) Consideration will also be given to other factors such as practical experience, maturity and motivation, and the likelihood of satisfactory completion of the academic requirements of the course.

(b) Special Additional Qualifications

- (i) 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 Master of Arts (Theology) degree, an average of 7.0, with at least 7.0 for reading and writing, and 6.0 for listening and speaking is required.
- (ii) Non-ACT graduates with undergraduate degrees in theology may need to complete certain preliminary studies before embarking on the coursework masters program.
- (iii) For students undertaking a bridging program that requires six or more units (at least 24 cps), the following existing policy may apply—

If a student achieves an average mark of at least a Distinction (3.0) in the first three units of their bridging program and includes units from the fields of Old Testament or New Testament or Theology, he or she may bring a case to the Academic Board through the enrolled college to have the last three units of the bridging program waived. The Board in assessing such cases will consider the performance in the studies done at the previous non-ACT college and the fields of study covered.

- (iv) ACT Bachelor of Christian Studies graduates will need to complete a further year full-time (or part-time equivalent) in undergraduate degree level units to articulate to the MA coursework program to satisfy the academic requirements for entry. In effect BChrStuds graduates will need to complete the requirements for the BTh. Should students wish to take out the BTh they would need to surrender the BChrStuds award.
- (v) Bridging programs must normally be completed before entry to the MA is granted.

(c) Mature Age Entry and Provisional Admission

- (i) There is no mature age entry requirement.
- (ii) *Provisional Candidature*
 - Provisional candidature will be granted to those who hold the Licentiate in Theology (ThL) or the Advanced Diploma of Theology with a GPA of at least 2.0 as well as a university degree, conditional upon passing four undergraduate units (16 cps) at advanced level with a Credit average (2.0).
 - Provisional candidates will be required to pass their first two units for their candidature to be confirmed. No distinction is made between full- and part-time students.

(d) Assumed Knowledge

Each unit in the Master of Arts (Theology) will be taught on the understanding that students have a sound grasp of the theological and biblical foundations commensurate with an undergraduate degree in theology or ministry.

3. Credit Transfer:**(a) Principles**

- (i) 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 ACT 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).
- (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.

(b) Admission with Advanced Standing: from completed awards

- (i) No credit can be claimed for units at Masters level completed at certificate, (advanced) diploma or undergraduate level.
- (ii) Students who hold the ACT's Graduate Diploma of Theology will be admitted to the degree with 50% advanced standing.
- (iii) Students with a completed fourth year Honours year or its equivalent from an accredited non-ACT award

in theology may be granted up to three units (24 cps) in the MA(Th) or GradDipTh. No credit will be given for the coursework masters project.

- (iv) Students with a completed Master of Divinity degree will be given advanced standing for up to two units passed at 700 level (ie. 16 cps) in their MDiv degree.
- (v) Master of Arts (Christian Studies) graduates are able to articulate from the degree to the MA(Th) after a further year (full-time or part-time equivalent) of coursework study as long as such graduates have 4 cps of biblical language. Units taken should fill out what is lacking in the student's theological education. Such a program might include taking out the GradDipTh or 32 credit points in the Master of Divinity degree.

(c) Admission with Advanced Standing: from incomplete awards

- (i) Applications for Advanced Standing from incomplete non-ACT awards will not be considered if the units were completed more than ten years previously.
- (ii) No credit can be claimed for units completed at certificate, (advanced) diploma or undergraduate degree level.
- (iii) Students yet to complete the Graduate Diploma of Theology/Master of Arts (Theology) who seek to transfer to the Graduate Diploma of Ministry/Master of Arts (Ministry), and visa versa, may have successfully completed units transferred subject to requirements of the Graduate Diploma of Ministry/Master of Arts (Ministry).
- (iv) One Masters level unit or units deemed equivalent to 8 cps may be taken at an institution not affiliated with the College. If not a university, preferably such an institution should be affiliated with the other ecumenical consortia (such as the Melbourne College of Divinity, Sydney College of Divinity, the Adelaide College of Divinity, the Perth College of Divinity or the Brisbane College of Theology). Approval will be subject to demonstration that the unit will be assessed at masters level and taught by an appropriately qualified teacher.

(d) Articulation for Graduates to Higher ACT Awards

- (i) To the Master of Theology:
 - Master of Arts (Theology) graduates may be granted candidature in the Master of Theology (MTh) by the Academic Board on condition that they achieved a GPA of at least 2.0 overall and Credit grade in the 16 cp project.
 - Students who achieve a GPA of 2.8 over the course of the first two units in the MA(Th) degree in addition to a Distinction grade in the project of 16 cps may upgrade to the MTh with the approval of the Board.

- MA(Th) graduates seeking entry to the MTh must have completed biblical and other language requirements that lay the foundation for research in their topic. For those candidates seeking to undertake research in Bible and Languages this requirement will normally be satisfied if the language skills for entry to the BTh Honours course (ie. At least 8 cps in either Biblical Hebrew (LA003) or New Testament Greek (LA004) and at least 8 cps of biblical language exegesis in their initial theological degree) have been completed.
- (ii) To the Doctor of Ministry:
Graduates holding the MA(Th), or a completed ACT MTh or recognised equivalent, will not be required to submit the preliminary essay as entry into the DMin. The other experiential prerequisites must be evident.
Graduates holding the ACT MA(Th), or awards recognised as equivalent, are exempted from Phase 1 of the course provided they have achieved the following outcomes during that prior course:
 - A distinction grade (3.0) in units in both theology and biblical studies equivalent to those as required of Phase 1 of the DMin, and
 - An average of a credit grade (2.0) across the whole MA(Th) course, and
 - Their MA course involved the completion of a 16 cp project achieving at least a credit (2.0) grade.
- (iii) To the Doctor of Theology:
Master of Arts (Theology) graduates with a 3.5 GPA overall and a High Distinction in the 16 cp research project may apply for ThD candidature.

4. Course Structure and Curriculum:

(a) Duration of Course and Modes of Delivery

- (i) The course is designed as a two-year full-time course. The maximum time of candidature for part-time candidates is six years.
- (ii) All units are offered in attendance mode; some in intensive (compressed) mode.
- (iii) Units offered once in attendance mode can be offered in distance mode.

(b) Course Structure and Progression

- (i) The MA(Th) award requires satisfactory completion of 64 credit points drawn from 700 level graduate units. At least 48 credit points must come from the unit fields of Languages (LA) and/or OT and/or NT and/or Theology (TH) and/or Church History (CH) and/or Philosophy/Ethics (PE). Up to 16 cps may be taken from units in the Department of Ministry and Practice (EM, PC, DM).
- (ii) Subject to approval by the enrolling college a student may complete an approved independent study project of 16 credit points for this degree. The project must come from the Departments of either Bible and Languages, or Christian Thought. The project is compulsory for students seeking to articulate to the MTh or ThD degrees.

- (iii) Students could exit with a Graduate Diploma of Theology after successful completion of 32 cps, 24 cps of which would come from Languages and/or OT and/or NT and/or Theology and/or Church History and/or Philosophy/Ethics. No more than 8 cps may be taken from units in the Department of Ministry and Practice (EM, PC, DM). Students graduating with the MA(Th) must surrender the GradDipTh if that has been awarded.
- (iv) Generally there are no prerequisites. Some exegesis units in the fields of Old and New Testament may require biblical language skills.
- (v) Students may take an 8000 word project (++750) in the GradDip phase of the degree.

(c) Assessment

- (i) Each unit in the MA(Th) requires approximately 8,000 words of writing. The 16 cp project requires 15,000 words (including footnotes but not bibliographies or abstracts), normally an exiting requirement.
- (ii) Each unit requires at least two different pieces of assessment. The major piece, worth 50% of the final grade, must be passed by the candidate. It might take the form of a 4,000 essay or a written three hour exam on the syllabus.

5. Learning Outcomes

Coursework Masters (700) Units—

Candidates will be expected to demonstrate superior knowledge and skills in their analysis of texts and ideas, and to arrive at independent judgments appropriate to early postgraduate level in their select area of study. Candidates are expected to demonstrate a developing capacity for further postgraduate research.

Pass

- demonstrates pronounced ability in engaging primary sources and understands their setting and historical context
- evidences a sound grasp of features of the discipline as they intersect with a select area of study
- shows an ability to evaluate critically a range of scholarly viewpoints with empathy

Credit

- demonstrates pronounced ability in the analysis of primary sources and understands their setting and historical context
- evidences a confident grasp of the features of the discipline as they intersect with a select area of study
- exhibits an ability to evaluate and assess empathetically a range of scholarly viewpoints that suggests the emergence of independent thinking and research skills required at early postgraduate level

Distinction

- demonstrates superior ability in the analysis and critique of primary sources and ideas and understands their setting and historical context
- evidences a confident grasp of the features of the discipline as they intersect with a select area of study
- exhibits superior ability in assessing and reporting on a range of scholarly viewpoints empathetically that exhibits the emergence of independent thinking and research skills required at early postgraduate level

High Distinction

- demonstrates superior knowledge and skills in the analysis and critique of primary sources and ideas and understands their setting and historical context
- evidences a confident grasp of the features of the discipline as they intersect with a select area of study
- exhibits genuinely independent scholarly judgments appropriate to early postgraduate level in a select area of study

6. Seminar Unit

The choice of the topic or theme to be studied is left to approved institutions but must have staff and library support sufficient to sustain the unit. The lecturer concerned is to submit a proposed unit outline along with assessment plans for approval by the relevant moderator.

The unit is conducted as a seminar involving class discussion as well as lectures and individual reading. The unit is not and individual research topic.

1. The total amount of work expected is that equivalent to an essay of approximately 8,000 words;
2. Student must demonstrate a thorough grasp of the theological issues involved;
3. Assessment should be designed to encourage exploration of the personal and pastoral implications of theological perspectives discerned in students' learning.

Learning outcomes:

By the end of the unit the student should be able to:

1. show evidence of a sound grasp of features of the discipline as they intersect with a select area of study;
2. analyse primary sources and show an understanding of their setting and historical context;
3. exhibit an ability to evaluate and assess empathetically a range of scholarly viewpoints that suggests the emergence of independent thinking and research skills required at early postgraduate level.

Bibliographies

Given the nature of this unit, specialised reading lists will be generated according to the individual topic of study.

7. Projects**Prerequisites and Exclusions:**

The 16 cp ++790 project is normally attempted at the end of a student's course of study once all other requirements for the award have been satisfactorily completed. However, candidates seeking to fulfil bridging requirements to a higher degree may attempt the project with approval of their sponsoring institution's course coordinator.

Objectives:

- To allow students to pursue in depth a topic of personal and/or vocational interest not studied elsewhere in the degree;
- To enable students to develop research skills at an advanced level, particularly if articulation to a research degree is anticipated;

Assessment:

++790 projects are 15,000 words in length (including footnotes and excursions, but excluding the bibliography and any appendices) are weighted at 16cps.

The project should also contain a synopsis of about 300 words, must not incorporate any material previously submitted by the candidate for any other degree or similar award.

While it need not be an original contribution to knowledge, the essay or project must reflect a conceptual understanding of the area or topic discussed which is commensurate with masters level study (see criteria below for the letter grades). In addition to the range of skills appropriate to superior advanced level candidates, the candidate must demonstrate evidence of reading across viewpoints and report them empathetically, take a point of view and sustain it with evidence, and show evidence of analytical skill and ability to assess critically existing scholarly literature.

Procedures:

- The topic of the project must be approved by the relevant field Moderator, using the required Assessment Procedures Form.
- Once the topic is approved, the student is to prepare a fuller proposal to be submitted to his or her sponsoring institution's course coordinator. The proposal should nominate a topic and include a statement of aim and method. The aim of the project must comply with the ethos of the degree. The student must also submit a bibliography of the primary and secondary monographs and articles in

the area of theology or biblical studies or ministerial study under investigation.

- Institutions are to ensure that adequate resources are available to the student in order that the research to be undertaken is supportable. In cases of inadequacies in the library holdings of the sponsoring institution, the course coordinator is to locate accessible local resources that will remedy the lack.
- Institutions are to ensure that the student is aware of the academic standard expected of the project.
- Sponsoring institutions are to ensure that students enrolling in the project are adequately supervised by an appropriately qualified member of the faculty once the proposal has been approved by the student's sponsoring institution. A co-supervisor may be drawn from the ranks of adjunct faculty, especially those who might be invited to lecture aspects of subjects taught by the student's sponsoring institution.
- Any student undertaking human subject research as part of their project must gain approval from the ACT's Ethics Committee before commencing their research. Applications forms can be obtained from their sponsoring college.

Examination:

The coordinator, in consultation with the candidate, is expected to submit the names of three or four possible external examiners of the project to the Dean for his or her consideration. Potential examiners should not be approached by the candidate or coordinator before names are submitted. It is the ACT's responsibility to invite and appoint such examiners, though always in consultation with the student's sponsoring college.

When the project is ready for submission, it must be sent to the ACT along with the following signed certification:

Candidate

The following project, of which I have kept a copy, is entirely the work of the undersigned and all sources of ideas and expressions are duly acknowledged in footnotes or endnotes. This project does not incorporate any material previously submitted by me for any other degree or similar award.

Supervisor

I consider that this project is in a form suitable for examination and conforms to the requirements of the Australian College of Theology.



MA (MIN) & MA (THEOL) UNIT LIST

LANGUAGE (LA)

- LA710 Intermediate Greek
- LA720 Reading Arabic Texts
- LA725 Reading Arabic Extension
- LA750 Project (8000 words)
- LA789 Languages Seminar
- LA790 Languages Project (15,000 words)

OLD TESTAMENT (OT)

- OT750 Project (8000 words)
- OT752 Current Issues in Old Testament Theology
- OT756 Literary and Theological Aspects of the Joseph Narratives (Genesis 37-50)
- OT758 Reading & Believing: Hermeneutics & Genesis 1-3
- OT761 Preaching Old Testament Narrative
- OT762 Interpreting Daniel for Today
- OT763 Biblical & Ministry Perspectives on Prayer
- OT765 Understanding & Preaching Isaiah
- OT766 Old Testament Foundations for Mission
- OT770 Interpreting Kings
- OT774 Preaching Psalms
- OT775 Using the Old Testament in Christian Ethics
- OT783 Interpreting Deuteronomy
- OT789 Old Testament Seminar
- OT790 Old Testament Project (15,000 words)

NEW TESTAMENT (NT)

- NT745 Life and Times of Jesus: Study Tour
- NT750 Project (8000 words)
- NT751 Pastoral Leadership in Time of Conflict: Studies in 1, 2, 3 John
- NT752 The Book of Revelation and Pastoral Issues Today
- NT755 The Message of Hebrews
- NT760 The Message of James
- NT761 Ministry, Order & Status and the Pauline Tradition
- NT762 New Testament Theology
- NT764 Narrative and Theology in the Gospel of Luke
- NT767 Worthy of our Calling: Studies in Ephesians
- NT769 Christology and Conduct: Studies in Colossians
- NT773 Theological Themes in Luke-Acts
- NT778 Hermeneutics, Theology and the Book of Acts
- NT781 A Ministry in Crisis: Studies in 2 Corinthians
- NT784 Life, Liberty & the Spirit: Studies in Galatians
- NT785 Postmodernity & Imagination: Interpreting, Constructing & Communicating Parables
- NT789 New Testament Seminar
- NT790 New Testament Project (15,000 words)

THEOLOGY (TH)

- TH750 Project (8000 words)
- TH751 The Theology of Augustine

- TH752 Evangelicalism: Its Nature, Spirituality & Significance
 TH753 Doctrine of the Holy Spirit
 TH754 20th Century Theologians
 TH755 Theological Models of Ministry
 TH756 Scottish Covenant Theology
 TH757 Theology & Practice of Expository Preaching
 TH760 Protestant Creeds
 TH761 Trinitarian Thought: The God Worshipped in Community
 TH764 Theology for Tomorrow's Church
 TH765 Meanings of the Atonement
 TH769 Qur'anic & Post-Qur'anic Interpretation of Biblical Themes
 TH782 The Trinity: Community in the Life and Witness of the Church
 TH783 Justification by Faith
 TH785 Church & Ministry: Reformed Understanding and Practice
 TH789 Theology Seminar
 TH790 Theology Project (15,000 words)

CHURCH HISTORY (CH)

- CH747 Lessons from the Reformation Today
 CH750 Project (8000 words)
 CH751 The Theology of Augustine
 CH752 The Life, Times and Legacy of a Significant Figure from the Story of the Church
 CH756 Issues in Australian Presbyterian History
 CH757 Scottish Covenant Theology
 CH758 Reformation, Restoration & Renewal
 CH759 Denominational History
 CH760 Protestant Creeds
 CH761 The Westminster Confession in the Presbyterian Church of Australia
 CH781 Islam: History and Institutions
 CH789 Church History Seminar
 CH790 Church History Project (15,000 words)

PHILOSOPHY & ETHICS (PE)

- PE750 Project (8000 words)
 PE752 Theories of Ethics & their Implications for Christians in a Postmodern World
 PE753 Bio-Ethics
 PE754 Apologetics for Post Modern Times
 PE756 Christian Social Ethics
 PE775 Using the Old Testament in Christian Ethics
 PE789 Philosophy & Ethics Seminar
 PE790 Philosophy & Ethics Project (15,000 words)

EVANGELISM & MISSION (EM)

- EM719 Religions of the World in Contemporary Society
 EM750 Project (8000 words)
 EM752 Ministry in Culturally Diverse Teams
 EM753 Poverty, Aid, Justice and Development
 EM758 Cross Cultural Teaching & Learning
 EM759 Cultural Anthropology for Christian Ministry
 EM760 Developing Trainers to Train Others Across Cultural Boundaries

- EM761 Leadership Development in a Cross Cultural Context
 EM762 Local Church & Global Mission
 EM766 Old Testament Foundations for Mission
 EM768 Perspectives on Islamic Feminism
 EM769 Qur'anic & Post-Qur'anic Interpretation of Biblical Themes
 EM771 The Church and its Mission in the Post Christendom Era
 EM775 Preaching Differing Biblical Genres
 EM776 Globalisation and its Impact on Ministry
 EM779 The Church in Australia: Sociological & Cultural Perspectives
 EM780 Contextualisation of Theology & Ministry Practice
 EM781 Islam: History and Institutions
 EM782 Christian Ministry in Islamic Contexts
 EM783 Islam in the Modern World
 EM784 Islam in Southeast Asia: History, Society and Politics
 EM788 Leading the Church for Mission in the Twenty First Century
 EM789 Evangelism & Mission Seminar
 EM790 Evangelism & Mission Project (15,000 words)

PASTORAL CHURCH FOCUSED MINISTRY (PC)

- PC747 Lessons from the Reformation Today
 PC750 Project (8000 words)
 PC751 Spirituality for Christian Ministry
 PC753 Conflict Management Skills for Pastors and Other Leaders of Congregations
 PC754 Pastoring in the 21st Century
 PC757 The Theology & Practice of Expository Preaching
 PC758 Reformation, Restoration & Renewal
 PC759 Contemporary Biblical Preaching
 PC760 A Theology of Church & Ministry for the Twenty First Century
 PC761 Leadership and Management in Christian Ministry
 PC762 Denominational History
 PC763 Biblical & Ministry Perspectives on Prayer
 PC764 Preaching Old Testament Narrative
 PC765 Understanding & Preaching Isaiah
 PC766 Frameworks for Christian Leadership
 PC767 Lifelong Leadership Development
 PC768 Church Growth, Health, Dynamics & Strategies
 PC769 Church Systems & Congregational Health
 PC770 The Future of Worship
 PC771 Missional Leadership in the 21st Century
 PC774 Preaching Psalms
 PC775 Preaching Differing Biblical Genres
 PC778 Hermeneutics, Theology & the Book of Acts
 PC779 Advanced Pastoral Relationships
 PC781 Ministering in the Postmodern Age
 PC782 Transformation, Renewal and the Agent of Change
 PC783 Justification by Faith
 PC784 Advanced Preaching Skills
 PC785 Church & Ministry: Reformed Understanding and Practice

- PC786 Woundedness & Vulnerability in Pastoral Care
PC787 Leadership & Church Governance
PC788 Theology, Culture and the Mission of the
Church: Leading the Church for Mission in the
Twenty First Century
PC789 Pastoral Church Focussed Ministry Seminar
PC790 Pastoral Church Focussed Ministry Project
(15,000 words)

DEVELOPMENTAL MINISTRY (DM)

- DM750 Project (8000 words)
DM751 Towards a Christian Theory of Education I
DM753 Towards a Theology of Christian Counselling I
DM754 Towards a Theology of Christian Counselling
II
DM756 The Theology of Work & the Pastoral Care of
Workers
DM757 Christians and Conflict
DM762 Family Ministry
DM767 Youth in the Church: Place, Role and Ministry
DM769 The Pastor's Growth & Development
DM771 Mentoring within Christian Community
DM789 Developmental Ministry Seminar
DM790 Developmental Ministry Project (15,000
words)

