

DIPLOMA OF THEOLOGY (DipTh) & DIPLOMA OF MINISTRY (DipMin)

Rationale and Aims of the Course:

(a) *Aim and Perceived Need*

- The aim of the Diploma is to introduce students in a systematic manner to the body of coherent knowledge that is the classical discipline of theology as a means of preparing men and women for well-informed participation in the life of the church and, if students so choose, for ministry in one or more areas of pastoral practice,
- The course does aim to provide a foundation of knowledge and skills appropriate to Christian ministry, but not of the breadth and depth required for leaders and teachers in congregations for which vocation the BTh, BMin and the Master of Divinity have been devised.

(b) *Occupational Functions of Graduates*

Graduates might expect to fulfil the following roles—

- a well-informed member of a church ministry team with shared responsibility for the Christian education program,
- depending on the units taken in the course, a member of a church pastoral ministry team under the leadership of a qualified practitioner with a degree in theology or ministry.

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

Graduates can be expected to demonstrate the following skills, knowledge and attitudes—

- ability to interpret the biblical deposit, especially those books which have played a crucial role in the development of the Christian tradition, with a knowledge of their original context and their major themes and ideas,
- knowledge of the major theological tenets of the Christian faith which underpin any coherent theological worldview and philosophy of ministry, and
- having successfully completed units in the Department of Ministry and Practice, graduates should possess skills appropriate for ministry in at least one area of ministry practice, and to demonstrate that they are able to bring the intellectual and pastoral dimensions of the Faith to bear upon issues affecting their special study area, in a way which is integrated with personal experience,
- ability to communicate and minister in his or her special study area in a manner which appropriately brings together knowledge and social context.

(d) *Learning and Teaching Strategies*

- Mastering the underlying principles and concepts of the biblical deposit and church history, as presented in the core units in Old Testament, New Testament and Church History,

- Once that foundation has been laid, engaging students in biblical exegesis, the major theological doctrines, and the further study of church history,
- Requiring students wishing to prepare for particular pastoral care and other practical ministry opportunities to demonstrate the skills needed to operate in those spheres,
- Requiring students intending to prepare for an aspect of pastoral ministry and who intend to take out the Diploma of Ministry to take the unit Supervised Experienced Based Learning (SEBL) (PC249), which is intended to facilitate reflection on the intellectual challenges of the content of the course and ministry context for which the student is preparing,
- 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.

Admission Requirements:

(a) *Educational Qualifications for Admission*

Candidates are normally admitted upon satisfactory completion of Year 12 in an Australian school system or equivalent. 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*

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. Diploma candidates are required to achieve at least 6.0 in all band scores.

(c) *Mature Age Entry*

Provisional mature age entry is available for candidates over the age of 20.

Credit Transfer:

(a) *Principles*

- ACT policies with respect to articulation conform to the National Policy Guidelines set forth in AQF documents.
- 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.
- 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) A maximum of 32 cps may be credited to the ACT two-year diplomas from completed three-year degrees of the ACT. The further 32 cps (8 units) needed to complete the Diploma of Theology or Diploma of Ministry may not include any units equivalent to units taken in the program from which credit has been granted. Application for credit is made on the prescribed ACT form available from affiliated colleges.
- (ii) For a completed pass certificate in the one-year Certificate in Theology (formerly the Associate in Theology), an historic unaccredited award of the ACT, 8 cps (i.e. 2 units) may be given in elective units.
- (iii) Students who have completed an ACT one year Certificate IV in theology or ministry may be granted up to 32 credit points towards an ACT undergraduate diploma.
- (iv) Admission with Advanced Standing from Non-ACT awards:
- Students who have completed a non-ACT one year Certificate IV in theology or ministry may be granted up to 8 cps towards an ACT undergraduate diploma. Units Counting for Credit from a Cert IV to the diplomas are as follows:
EM211 Mission in the Urban Context
PC201 Ministry Formation
PC235 Principles of Leadership & Management
PC240 Communication Principles
DM201 Foundations of Christian Education
 - Students who have completed a non-ACT two-year VET diploma in ministry or theology may be granted up to 16 cps towards an ACT undergraduate 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) With the approval of the Dean, discrete units of the undergraduate degrees may be taught and counted as credit towards the three-year Diplomas and two-year Diplomas. Since these units will normally be internally examined, approval will be granted where it is considered that adequate expertise in full assessment can be assured.
- (ii) Individual ACT degree units may be credited to the diplomas as long as a grade of 40% or more has been achieved.
- (iii) Students with an incomplete ACT or non-ACT one year Certificate IV in theology or ministry may be granted up to 8 credit points towards an ACT undergraduate degree from designated units. See the list of designated units above.
- (iv) Students yet to complete a non-ACT two year VET diploma in ministry or theology may be granted up

to 16 credit points towards an ACT undergraduate degree. See the list of designated units above.

Notwithstanding the above, students must still satisfy all entrance requirements for the diploma to which they are seeking credit.

Applications should be made on the prescribed enrolment form available from affiliated colleges.

(d) Articulation for Graduates to Higher ACT Awards

Unless students have successfully completed Greek (LA002, LA004) and Hebrew (LA001, LA003) for which degree credit will be automatically granted, a maximum of 44 credit points is available for (two year) diploma graduates towards the BMin/BTh. Graduates must have achieved a GPA of 2.0 (Credit) in their award for the above credit to apply. The exact units for which credit is received will be determined on a case by case basis.

Course Structure and Curriculum:**(a) Duration of Course and Modes of Delivery**

- The Diploma is a two-year course. This is the minimum period of candidature. There is no maximum time for candidature. Candidates may study full-time or part-time.
- All students in the Diploma must be enrolled at an approved institution of the College.
- Units can be delivered in attendance or flexible mode.

(b) Course Structure and Progression

Diploma students must complete 64 cps (16 units).

The core units, to be completed by all diploma students, comprise:

- Old Testament Introduction—8 cps, OT201, OT202.
- New Testament Introduction—8 cps, NT201, NT202.
- Church History—4 cps, one of CH201, CH202, CH205–CH209.
- Theology—4 cps, either TH210 or TH211.

If taken, the unit Supervised Experienced Based Learning (PC249) is an integrative unit taken over at least two years of a candidate's Diploma program. SEBL is compulsory for Advanced Diploma of Ministry students.

Diploma of Theology

- The core (as mentioned above) *plus*:
- Minimum of 4 cps in Old Testament exegesis
- Minimum of 4 cps in New Testament exegesis
- Minimum of 4 cps in Theology
- Minimum of 4 cps in Church History
- Minimum 16 cps Type A Electives
- Maximum of 8 cps Type B Electives (if offered)

Diploma of Ministry

- The core (as mentioned above) *plus*:
- Minimum of 4 cps in Old Testament exegesis
- Minimum of 4 cps in New Testament exegesis
- Minimum of 16 cps in Ministry and Practice, with at least 8 in one field
- Minimum 8 cps Type A Electives
- Maximum of 8 cps Type B Electives (if offered)

Regulations

- Students must not enrol in more than 20 cps in any one semester,
- The Project, if taken, may not be begun until the year in which the student expects to graduate,
- Students may take one only of Ministry Formation (PC201), Personal Life of Those in Ministry (PC210) and Personal Life of the Missionary (EM216),
- Students may not take Foundations of Pastoral Care (PC202) if either Pastoral Skills and Methods (PC203) or Pastoral Care (PC207) has been taken.

Assessment***Units in the Departments of Bible and Languages (non-exegesis) and Christian Thought***

Unless otherwise specified in the syllabus, units in the Departments of Bible and Languages (LA, OT, NT) and Christian Thought (TH, CH, PE) are assessed by a written examination and by work set and marked by a student's approved college. The exam is worth at least 50% of the total grade. The essay (or other forms of assessment) is worth no more than 50%.

Unless otherwise specified, the written examination shall be a minimum of 80 minutes duration. Students will be required to answer at least 3 questions from a minimum of 8 alternatives set. Each numbered topic area of the syllabus will be examined, but (as appropriate at diploma level) candidates will not be expected to answer detailed questions on subsections within these.

Exegesis Units (Department of Bible and Languages)

An exam is not compulsory for these units. At least 50% of the assessment must involve exegetical exercises and/or a major exegetical essay. There must be one major piece of assessment worth at least 40%.

Greek Exegesis units (NT210-213):

Assessment for these units will consist of:

- 1 Translation of Greek into English (40%);
- 2 Exegesis of the Greek text (60%).

Biblical Languages Units (LA001-004)

In each unit the written examination is a minimum of 80 minutes.

The major assessment in each unit is moderated by the LA unit field moderator.

Units in the Department of Ministry and Practice

These units are assessed by the candidate's approved college in an appropriate way. At least two pieces of assessment must be used for each unit.

Designated field work units are assessed on a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory basis only and are not included in the calculation of a student's GPA.

Project

The Project is assessed by way of a single 4,000 word essay.

Word equivalence

Each unit requires the completion of 4,000 words or equivalent.

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

Unit Outlines:

See the listing under Advanced Diploma in the following pages.

