

**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**

- (i) Open as a second degree to persons who have graduated from an Australian or overseas

university in a non-theological discipline or who possess an equivalent (non-theological) qualification.

- (ii) Any student who study in theology or ministry was completed more than 10 years previously could enrol in any course or unit offered at 500-600 level as long as they satisfied academic requirements for enrolling (and were already a graduate in a non theological discipline).
- (iii) 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) 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. For candidates wishing to enrol in the MDiv degree, an overall band score of 6.5 is required: with 6.5 in reading and writing and with no score under 6.0 in any module.

**(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 can be taken at a distance provided that the reasons for the move 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, (advanced) 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 or Graduate Diploma of Christian Studies 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.
- 8 cps project (compulsory for 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.

###### ***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.
- There are no pre-requisites governing the choice of units.

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) In general 16 points in core foundational (500 level) units must be passed before a unit at advanced level (600 level) can be taken. Individual unit syllabi provide further detail and explicitly nominate any other prerequisites.
- (ii) 700 level units may only be taken once 64 cps have been successfully completed at a 2.0 GPA or the student has performed at that level in his/her last attempted 32 cps. 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)	53
LA002	Introduction to New Testament Greek (4 cp)	53
LA003A	Biblical Hebrew A	54
LA003B	Biblical Hebrew B	54
LA004A	New Testament Greek A	55
LA004B	New Testament Greek B	55
LA610	Intermediate Greek	56
LA611	Intermediate Hebrew	57
LA650	Project (4 cp)	187
LA690	Project (8 cp)	187

##### Old Testament (OT)

OT501	Formative OT Traditions	59
OT502	From Israel to Judea	60
* OT503	Principles of Hermeneutics	60
OT620	Pentateuch (Eng)	62
OT621	Former Prophets (Eng)	63
OT622	Eighth Century Prophets (Eng)	63
OT623	Exilic Prophecy (Eng)	64
OT624	Wisdom Literature (Eng)	65
OT625	Apocalyptic & Post-exilic Prophecy (Eng)	66
OT626	The Psalter (Eng)	67
OT627	Isaiah (Eng)	68
OT628	Jeremiah (Eng)	69
OT630	Pentateuch (Heb)	62
OT631	Former Prophets (Heb)	63
OT632	Eighth Century Prophets (Heb)	63
OT633	Exilic Prophecy (Heb)	64
OT634	Wisdom Literature (Heb)	65
OT635	Apocalyptic & Post-exilic Prophecy (Heb)	66
OT636	The Psalter (Heb)	67
OT637	Isaiah (Heb)	68
OT638	Jeremiah (Heb)	69
OT650	Project (4 cp)	187
OT689	Seminar	69
OT690	Project (8 cp)	187

##### New Testament (NT)

NT501	Content and Setting of the Gospel Tradition	72
NT502	The Early New Testament Church	73
NT620	Synoptic Gospels (Eng)	74
NT621	Paul and Corinthian Christianity (Eng)	75
NT622	The Epistle to the Hebrews (Eng)	76
NT624	The Fourth Gospel (Eng)	77
NT625	Pauline Theology & Romans (Eng)	78
NT626	General Epistles (Eng)	79
NT627	New Testament Apocalyptic (Eng)	80
NT628	Other Writings (Eng)	81
NT629	Romans (Eng)	82
NT630	Synoptic Gospels (Grk)	83
NT631	Paul and Corinthian Christianity (Grk)	84
NT632	The Epistle to the Hebrews (Grk)	85
NT634	The Fourth Gospel (Grk)	86
NT635	Pauline Theology & Romans (Grk)	87
NT636	General Epistles (Grk)	88
NT637	New Testament Apocalyptic (Grk)	89
NT638	Other Writings (Grk)	90
NT639	Romans (Grk)	91
* NT645	The Bible in Context	92
NT650	Project (4 cp)	187
NT689	Seminar	92
NT690	Project (8 cp)	187

##### Christian Thought

##### Theology (TH)

TH505	Foundational Christian Beliefs	94
TH601	The Knowledge of God	94
TH602	The Doctrine of God & The Work of Christ	95
TH603	The Doctrines of Grace & Eschatology	96
TH604	Church, Sacraments & Ministry	97
TH610	Westminster Confession	98
TH620	Reformation Issues	99
TH621	God as Trinity	100
TH632	Major Christian Doctrines	101
TH635	Greek & Latin Fathers	101
TH650	Project (4 cp)	187
TH689	Theology Seminar	102
TH690	Project (8 cp)	187

##### Church History (CH)

CH501	The Church to 1550	103
CH502	The Church from 1550 to Modern Times	104
CH503	The Church in the First Three Centuries	106
CH504	Church and Empire (313-451)	107
CH505	Early Church History (30-451)	108
CH609	Australian Church History	109
CH621	The Continental Reformation	111
CH622	The Reformation in Britain	112
CH624	The Reformation in Europe & Britain	113
CH625	History of Evangelical Christianity	114
CH645	Reformation History in Context	115
CH650	Project (4 cp)	187
CH689	Church History Seminar	116
CH690	Project (8 cp)	187

##### Philosophy and Ethics (PE)

PE501	Introduction to Christian Ethics	116
PE510	Christian Worldview	117
PE602	Theological Ethics	118
PE603	Christian Social Ethics	120
PE617	Church in Australian Society	121

PE620	Christian Apologetics	122	PC649a	Supervised Experience Based Learning A	171
PE625	Philosophy & Religion	123	PC649b	Supervised Experience Based Learning B	171
PE626	Issues in Philosophy & Religion	124	PC649c	Supervised Experience Based Learning C	171
PE650	Project (4 cp)	187	PC649d	Supervised Experience Based Learning D	171
PE688	Ethics Seminar	125	PC650	Project (4 cp)	187
PE689	Philosophy Seminar	125	PC689	Pastoral & Church Focussed Ministry Seminar	172
PE690	Project (8 cp)	187	PC690	Project (8 cp)	187
<b>Ministry &amp; Practice</b>					
<b>Evangelism and Missiology (EM)</b>					
EM501	Mission Perspectives	126	<b>Developmental Ministries (DM)</b>		
EM502	History of Christian Missions	127	DM501	Foundations for Christian Education	173
EM505	Theology of Mission	128	DM502	Ministry Formation for Chaplaincy	174
EM506	Issues in Missiology	129	DM510	Foundations for Youth Ministry	175
EM524	Principles of Evangelism	130	DM520	Introduction to Children's Ministry	176
EM603	Biblical Theology of Mission	131	DM603	Adult Christian Education	177
EM604	Contemporary Theology of Mission	132	DM604	Christian Education in Practice	178
EM608	Cross Cultural Communication	133	DM611	Youth in the Churches	179
EM609	Cultural Anthropology	134	DM612	Youth: Context, Development & Learning	180
EM610	Aid & Development	135	DM613	Ministry with Non-Church Youth	181
EM611	Mission in the Urban Context	136	DM614	Chaplaincy in Educational Settings	181
EM615	Christian Ministry in Islamic Contexts	137	DM621	Issues in Children's Ministry	183
EM617	Spiritual Formation for Cross Cultural Ministry	138	DM630	Australian Families & Church	184
EM618	Ministry in A Culturally Diverse Context	139	DM640	Christian Education Field Education	185
EM620	Study of Religion	140	DM641	Youth Ministry Field Education	185
EM621	Living Faiths	141	DM642	Children's Ministry Field Education	186
EM622	Alternative Religious Movements	141	DM650	Project (4 cp)	187
EM625	Applied Evangelism	142	DM689	Christian Education Seminar	186
EM626	Church Planting	143	DM690	Project (8 cp)	187
EM627	Church Dynamics & Growth	144	◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆		
EM635	Linguistics & Language Learning	145			
EM640	Cross Cultural Field Education	147			
EM641	Evangelism Field Education	147			
EM650	Project (4 cp)	187			
EM689	Seminar	148			
EM690	Project (8 cp)	187			
<b>Pastoral &amp; Church Focussed Ministry (PC)</b>					
PC501	Ministry Formation	149			
PC515	Christian Worship	149			
PC527	Patterns of Spiritual Formation	150			
PC530	Christian Spirituality	151			
PC602	Foundations of Pastoral Care	152			
PC603	Pastoral Skills & Methods	153			
PC605	Principles of Christian Counselling	154			
PC606	Applied Christian Counselling	155			
PC608	Spiritual Formation for Pastoral Ministry	156			
PC609	Professional Ethics in Ministry	157			
PC611	Preaching in the Christian Tradition	159			
PC616	Denominational Distinctives	159			
PC617	Preaching: Theology and Practice	160			
PC621	Theology for Everyday Life	161			
PC628	The Christian Spiritual Tradition	162			
PC629	Contemporary Trends in Spirituality	162			
PC634	Leadership in Christian Ministry	163			
PC635	Principles of Leadership & Management	164			
PC636	Clinical Pastoral Education	165			
PC639	Inter-personal Relationships	165			
PC640	Communication Principles	166			
PC641	Principles of Homiletics	167			
PC642	Congregational Field Education	168			
PC643	Pastoral Care Field Education	169			
PC644	Practical Ministry Field Education	170			