

Associate Degree in THEOLOGY

PURPOSE

The Associate Degree in Theology is a two-year, full time (or equivalent part-time) program of undergraduate study which provides education in biblical, theological, missiological and ministry related disciplines. The award seeks to integrate biblical and theological study and reflection, ministry skills development, spiritual formation and personal discipleship. The degree is founded on a biblical, theological core, and has a flexible structure which allows students to pursue majors in the areas of pastoral & church focussed ministry, youth ministry, evangelism and mission, or biblical studies.

This degree is designed to be appropriate preparation for a wide range of Christian ministries including those conducted by lay leaders as well as participation as a member of a church educational or pastoral ministry team. These ministries may involve Church based ministries, cross-cultural ministry in mission, ministry with service agencies, or through chosen professional vocations.

The Associate Degree in Theology is an award of the Australian College of Theology.

Graduates of the Associate Degree may continue on to a BMin or BTh with 64cps of advanced standing. To continue with a post-graduate award graduates would need to complete the BMin or BTh year first. No advanced standing from the Associate Degree can be given for graduates towards an MDiv but 16cps can be granted towards the Graduate Diploma of Christian Studies for students with a university degree.

OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Associate degree are –

- *Comprehensive knowledge of the Christian faith:* Through a rigorous program of study graduates will have developed, at an academic level appropriate for a primary degree, a knowledge of the Christian faith including a sound, overall knowledge of the Bible and major theological doctrines, a broad understanding of the historical development of the Christian church and the ability to analyse, integrate, apply and further develop this knowledge in life and ministry.
- *Personal development in biblical holiness:* Graduates will have a mature understanding, grounded in theory and practice, of Christian spirituality including the way an experience of God and biblical holiness can enhance personal life and commitment to the life and mission of the church.
- *Practical ministry skills:* Graduates will have an overall understanding of the skills and gifts required for Christian ministry, a mature understanding of their own particular ministry skills and gifts and the ability to begin to exercise and further develop their skills in service for the church and its mission to the world. The Associate Degree provides training for Christian ministry through the provision of a flexible program of majors.

Entry Requirements

Standard Entry

Admission to the undergraduate program is normally on the basis of the applicant -

- Being qualified for admission to a degree course at an Australian university by having satisfactorily completed Year 12 in an Australian school system, or equivalent, and
- Demonstrating potential to undertake cognitive-formative-functional study of this nature at undergraduate level with a Universities Admission Index or Enter Score of at least 75.00 or the equivalent and

- Demonstrating English language skills appropriate to this level of study. Entry is open to candidates from a non-English speaking background who have either satisfactorily completed at least one year of study in English at an approved tertiary institution or have achieved a minimum overall band score of 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS), with no band score lower than 6.5 in Reading and Writing.

Alternate Entry

Candidates who have not completed study which would qualify them to enter a degree course at an Australian university but who fulfil all other criteria for Standard Entry and who are 21 years of age or more may be admitted as mature age students if there is evidence of an ability to study at this level. Such candidates may be required to -

- Take an entrance test to evaluate their study ability
- Undertake a special study skills program
- Initially take a reduced load of study
- Be provisionally enrolled conditional upon satisfactory performance.

Advanced Standing

1. Advanced standing of up to 33% of the Associate Degree from equivalent courses: Credit transfer may be given for previous undergraduate theological study undertaken at approved institutions although a maximum of 8cps can be credited from a VET Certificate IV or Diploma in Theology/Ministry.
2. Advanced standing/credit transfer up to 32 credit points may be given for completion of the ACT's (higher education) Advanced Diplomas in Theology and Ministry.
3. Students enrolled in a 3-year degree of the ACTh (MDiv, BTh or BMin) may choose to exit after 64 cps and receive an Associate Degree.

Course Structure – Associate Degree in Theology

Duration

The minimum time of candidature for the Assoc.Deg is 2 years (without advanced standing). The Assoc. Deg must be completed within 6 years.

Mode of Study and Assessment

- The Assoc.Deg can be completed entirely through on-campus lectures or by Distance.
- Subjects offered at 300 level require the completion of 4,000 - 5,000 words or equivalent. Subjects offered at 400 level require the completion of 5,000 - 6,000 words or equivalent. An exam is reckoned as the equivalent of 1,500 words per hour.
- Assessment methods include essay, exams, book review, reflection paper, weekly exercises and practical projects.
- All Foundation subjects are required to have an exam.

Overall Credit Requirements

Credit points refers to the overall student effort including contact hours and time on assessment tasks. This degree requires the satisfactory completion of subjects totalling 64 credit points. The student should expect 3 hours of class time and further 6-8 hours on assessment requirements each week for every 4 cp subject. Distance students should expect 10-12 hours per week for every 4 cp subject.

Load requirements

Full time students will normally take 3-4 subjects per semester. It is not recommended that students who are entering degree studies on the basis of mature age entry enrol in more than 3 subjects. Students must not enrol in more than 20 cps in any semester or 32 cps in any academic year.

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

- 16 credit points in core foundational level subjects (300 level) must be passed before a subject at advanced level (400 level) can be taken. See the subject summaries for specific pre-requisites on individual subjects.
- No more than 28 cps of foundational level subjects can be counted in a student's course of study. Biblical Hebrew (LA003) and New Testament Greek (LA004) are excluded from this requirement.
- The subject Supervised Experienced Based Learning (PC449) is a compulsory subject taken over the course of the student's program. In the first year the classroom based discipleship training must be completed. The focus of the subject is reflection, self-evaluation and growth planning in relation to personal spiritual growth through college activities or ministry experience.

The following table indicates the subjects that are compulsory.

COMPULSORY SUBJECTS:		
Old Testament		
OT301	Formative OT Traditions	4
OT302	From Israel to Judea	4
New Testament		
NT301	Content & Setting of the Gospel Tradition	4
NT302	Early New Testament Church	4
Interpretation		
OT303	Principles of Hermeneutics	4
Project: in the field of the major chosen		
**490	Elective 4	4
Ministry Formation		
PC449	Supervised Experience Based Learning (4 x 1cp units including discipleship training).	4

The following table indicates the fields for which there is choice and requirements in each one.

ELECTIVE SUBJECTS:		
Language & Bible Exegesis: 2 required in either exegesis or language		
	Elective Exegesis OR New Testament Greek OR Biblical Hebrew	4
	Elective Exegesis OR New Testament Greek OR Biblical Hebrew	4
Church History: at least one of the following		
CH301	The Church to 1550	4
CH302	The Church from 1550 to Modern Times	
Theology: at least one of the following		
TH401	The Knowledge of God	4
TH403	The Doctrines of Grace & Eschatology	
TH404	Church, Sacraments & Ministry	
TH402	The Doctrine of God & The Work of Christ	
Church History or Theology: at least two more of either		
	CH or TH Elective	4
	CH or TH Elective	4
Major Electives: 3 required from any one field		
	Elective 1	4
	Elective 2	4
	Elective 3	4
TOTAL CREDIT POINTS		64

REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MAJORS

All the majors require completion of 12 credit points from that major and can include any appropriate subjects already taken as core subjects. In addition, students must take a 4 cp project in a topic from the major.

All 300 level subjects are foundational and 400 level are advanced. Unless otherwise stated all subjects are 4 credit points. Subjects with an * have additional prerequisites (see subject summaries). 16 credit points of core foundational level subjects (300 level) must be completed before subjects for the majors can be taken, i.e. 4 of the following NT301, NT302, OT301, OT302, CH301, CH302.

MAJOR 1: BIBLE AND LANGUAGES

The Bible major (completed with exegesis in Greek or Hebrew) requires completion of 8 cps of either the Greek or Hebrew language plus the 12 credit points of exegesis subjects.

Electives may be chosen from any of the following:

Code	Subject
OT410	Pentateuch (Eng)
OT420	Pentateuch (Heb)
OT411	The Former Prophets (Eng)
OT421	The Former Prophets (Heb)
OT412	Eighth Century Prophets (Eng)
OT422	Eighth Century Prophets (Heb)
OT413	Exilic Prophecy (Eng)
OT423	Exilic Prophecy (Heb)
OT416	Psalter (Eng)
OT426	Psalter (Heb)
OT424	Wisdom Literature (Eng)
OT434	Wisdom Literature (Heb)
OT489	Seminar
NT420	Synoptic Gospels (Eng)
NT430	Synoptic Gospels (Grk)
NT421	Paul and the Corinthian Christianity (Eng)
NT431	Paul and the Corinthian Christianity (Grk)
NT422	Hebrews (Eng)
NT432	Hebrews (Grk)
NT424	Fourth Gospel (Eng)
NT434	Fourth Gospel (Grk)
NT425	Pauline Theology and Romans (Eng)
NT435	Pauline Theology and Romans (Grk)
NT426	General Epistles (Eng)
NT436	General Epistles (Grk)
NT489	Seminar
LA003	Biblical Hebrew (8 cps)
LA004	New Testament Greek (8cps)
LA410	*Intermediate Greek
OT303	Principles of Hermeneutics (compulsory)
OT490	Project
NT490	Project

MAJOR 2: MINISTRY & PRACTICE - YOUTH MINISTRY

Electives may be chosen from any of the following:

Code	Subject
DM414	Chaplaincy in Educational Settings
DM411	Youth in the Churches
DM412	Youth: Context, Development & Learning
DM413	Ministry with Non-Church Youth

MAJOR 3: MINISTRY & PRACTICE - PASTORAL & CHURCH FOCUSED MINISTRY

Electives may be chosen from any of the following:

Code	Subject
PC402	*Foundations of Pastoral Care
PC403	*Pastoral Skills and Methods
PC315	Christian Worship
PC435	*Principles of Leadership & Management
PC440	Communication Principles
PC490	*Project

MAJOR 4: MINISTRY & PRACTICE - EVANGELISM AND MISSION

Electives may be chosen from any of the following:

Code	Subject
EM301	Mission Perspectives (Distance Only)
EM403	Biblical Theology of Mission
EM404	Contemporary Theology of Mission
EM408	Cross-cultural Communication
EM409	Cultural Anthropology
EM410	Aid and Development
EM421	*Living Faiths
EM435	Linguistics & Language Learning
EM489	*Seminar
EM490	*Project

MAJOR 6: CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

Electives may be chosen from any of the following:

Code	Subject
PE301	Introduction to Christian Ethics
PE420	Christian Apologetics
CH409	Australian Church History
TH425	Twentieth Century Issues in Theology
PE490	*Project

SUGGESTED STUDY PROGRAM

Semester	3 Subjects per semester	4 Subjects per semester
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OT301 Formative Old Testament Traditions • NT301 Content & Setting of the Gospel Tradition • CH301 The Church to 1550 • SEBL 1 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OT301 Formative Old Testament Traditions • NT301 Content & Setting of the Gospel Tradition • CH301 The Church to 1550 • SEBL 1
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OT302 From Israel to Judea • NT302 Early New Testament Church • 1 Elective • SEBL 2 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OT302 From Israel to Judea • NT302 Early New Testament Church • CH302 The Church from 1550 to Modern Times • 1 Elective • SEBL 2
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theology Elective • OT303 Principles of Hermeneutics • 1 Elective • SEBL 3 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theology Elective • OT303 Principles of Hermeneutics • Elective • 1 Exegesis Elective • SEBL 3
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theology Elective • 1 Elective • 1 Exegesis elective • SEBL 4 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Theology Elective • 2 Electives or Exegesis • Project • SEBL 4
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 Electives • 1 Exegesis elective • Project 	