

# MASTER OF DIVINITY

## PURPOSE

The Master of Divinity degree is a program of study for graduates of a non-theological degree. It is designed in such a way as to provide a breadth of exposure to the biblical, theological, historical, missiological, and ministry related disciplines as well as a depth of understanding within those disciplines. It provides -

- exposure to a solid core of biblical, theological and other essential courses of study
- and the selection of electives and research project related to the student's interests, needs and future responsibilities.

It is designed to be appropriate preparation for full-time, professionals in Christian ministry such as pastors, teachers and in other ministries within Christian organisations and mission agencies.

The Master of Divinity articulates to the M.A. (Ministry or Theology – coursework), Master of Ministry Theology (research based) or Doctor of Ministry (course work and research).

The Master of Divinity is an award of the Australian College of Theology.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Master of Divinity are -

- Comprehensive knowledge of the Christian faith: Through a rigorous program of study graduates will have developed, at graduate level, a thorough knowledge of the Christian faith including a sound, overall knowledge of the Bible and major theological doctrines and a broad understanding of the historical development of the Christian church, the ability to exegete biblical texts in their original language, and 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

## ADMISSION QUALIFICATIONS

### Standard Entry

Admission to the M.Div is normally on the basis of the applicant -

- holding a Bachelor's degree in a non-theological discipline from an Australian University (or the equivalent) and
- demonstrating potential to undertake cognitive-formative-functional study of this nature at graduate level and

- demonstrating English language skills appropriate to this level of study. Candidates will either have 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.

### **Alternative Entry**

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

### **ADVANCED STANDING:**

- Advanced standing/credit transfer may be given for previous graduate level theological study taken at approved institutions.
- Graduate Diploma in Bible & Ministry or Christian Studies graduates can receive up to 32 cps advanced standing in the M.Div. as long as they meet the academic requirements of the M.Div. degree. Students transferring to the M.Div. would need to surrender their diploma.

### **DURATION**

The minimum time for candidature is three-years. The maximum time for candidature is eight years. Candidates may study full-time or part-time.

Up to 33% or the equivalent of the Graduate Diploma in Divinity can be taken in Distance mode.

In exceptional circumstances, if a student has completed all but 16 cps in the MDiv, the remainder of the degree can be taken by distance provided that the reasons for the move are exceptional and the Board of Studies approves.

## **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

### **Overall Credit Requirements**

Credit points refer to the overall student effort including contact hours and time on assessment tasks. The degree requires the satisfactory completion of 96 credit points. The student should expect 3 hours of class time and a further 6 – 8 hours on assessment requirements each week for every 4 cp subject.

### **Mode of Study and Assessment**

- The Master of Divinity can be completed entirely through on-campus lectures and up to one third by be completed by Distance.
- Subjects offered at 400 level require the completion of 5,000 - 6,000 words or equivalent. Subjects offered at 600 level require the completion of 6,000 - 7,000 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.

## Load Requirements

Full time students will normally take 12 or 16 credit points per semester from the scheduled subjects. Students must not enrol in more than 20 cps in any semester or 32 cps in any academic year.

## Core Requirements

- No more than 40 cps of foundational level subjects (500 level) can be taken over the whole course of study. Biblical Hebrew (LA003) and New Testament Greek (LA004) are excluded from this requirement.
- In general 16 cps in foundational (500 level) subjects must be passed before a subject at advanced level (600 level) can be taken. Individual subjects may also have specific prerequisites.
- 700 level subjects may only be taken once 64 cps have been successfully completed at a 2.0 GPA or when the student has performed at that level in his/her last 32 cps. Students who successfully complete 700 level subjects in their M.Div. program can gain credit for up to two 700 level subjects in the M.A. (Theol) or M.A. (Min).
- All students must complete an 8cp Research Project. This would normally be done in the final semester and cannot be done until 8cp of subjects in the field of research have been completed. These electives should not be left till the final semester.
- At least 16 cps of subjects and the 8 cp project must be completed in classes that are graduate level only, i.e. do not also have undergraduate students in the same lectures.

The following table indicates the subjects that are compulsory:

<b>COMPULSORY SUBJECTS:</b>		
<b>Old Testament</b>		
OT501	Formative OT Traditions	4
OT502	From Israel to Judea	4
<b>New Testament</b>		
NT501	Content & Setting of the Gospel Tradition	4
NT502	Early New Testament Church	4
<b>Church History</b>		
CH501	The Church to 1550	4
CH502	The Church from 1550 to Modern Times	4
<b>Language and Interpretation</b>		
LA004	New Testament Greek (2 x 4 cps per semester required)	8
OT503	Principles of Hermeneutics	4
<b>Theology:</b>		
TH602	The Doctrine of God & The Work of Christ	4

The following table indicates the fields where choice is possible and requirements in each one.

<b>ELECTIVE SUBJECTS:</b>		
<b>Bible Exegesis: 4 required at least 2 in original language.</b>		
	Elective OT Exegesis	4
	Elective OT Exegesis	4
	Elective NT Exegesis	4
	Elective NT Exegesis	4
<b>Language and Interpretation: one semester of either</b>		
LA610	Intermediate Greek	4
LA003	Biblical Hebrew	
<b>Theology: 3 of the following</b>		
TH601	The Knowledge of God	4
TH603	The Doctrines of Grace & Eschatology	4
TH604	Church, Sacraments & Ministry	4
	Elective from the Christian Thought Field	
<b>Communication: one of the following</b>		
PC641	Principles of Homiletics	4
PC640	Communication Principles	
EM608	Cross Cultural Communication	
<b>Evangelism &amp; Mission: one subject required</b>		
	EM elective 1	4
<b>Electives: 2 from any field</b>		
	Elective 1	4
	Elective 2	4
<b>Research</b>		
	Project	8
<b>TOTAL CREDIT POINTS</b>		<b>96</b>

### Research Project

The Project allows the opportunity to undertake sustained, in-depth research in the area of the student's major. Eight cps in the chosen research field must be completed before the project which is done. Projects can be completed in any of the elective fields listed below.

The word requirements are as follows:

8cp project - 8,000 words (including footnotes but not bibliographies or abstracts)

The topic of the research project must be approved by the Board of Studies. The student should prepare a proposal nominating a topic and including a statement of aim and method. The aim of the project must be to further the ethos of the degree. The student must also submit a bibliography of the primary and secondary monographs and articles in the topic.

Once the proposal has been approved the Board of Studies will appoint a supervisor from faculty. In some cases a co-supervisor may be appointed from adjunct faculty. The project will be graded by this person if they have not read the final draft in which case it will be graded by another suitable member of faculty. The project will be moderated by the ACTh.

## ELECTIVES

Electives may be chosen from any of the following fields:

### BIBLE AND LANGUAGES

Code	Subject
OT610	Pentateuch (Eng)
OT620	Pentateuch (Heb)
OT611	The Former Prophets (Eng)
OT621	The Former Prophets (Heb)
OT612	Eighth Century Prophets (Eng)
OT622	Eighth Century Prophets (Heb)
OT613	Exilic Prophecy (Eng)
OT623	Exilic Prophecy (Heb)
OT616	Psalter (Eng)
OT626	Psalter (Heb)
OT624	Wisdom Literature (Eng)
OT634	Wisdom Literature (Heb)
OT689	Seminar
NT620	Synoptic Gospels (Eng)
NT630	Synoptic Gospels (Greek)
NT622	Hebrews (Eng)
NT632	Hebrews (Grk)
NT624	Fourth Gospel (Eng)
NT634	Fourth Gospel (Grk)
NT625	Pauline Theology and Romans (Eng)
NT635	Pauline Theology and Romans (Grk)
NT626	General Epistles (Eng)
NT636	General Epistles (Grk)
NT628	Other Writings: Acts & Galatians
NT638	Other Writings: Acts & Galatians
NT689	Seminar
LA003	Biblical Hebrew (8 cps)
LA004	New Testament Greek (8cps)
LA610	*Intermediate Greek
OT503	Principles of Hermeneutics (compulsory)
OT690	Project
NT690	Project

## MINISTRY & PRACTICE - YOUTH MINISTRY

Code	Subject
DM614	Chaplaincy in Educational Settings

## MINISTRY & PRACTICE - PASTORAL & CHURCH FOCUSED MINISTRY

Code	Subject
PC602	*Foundations of Pastoral Care
PC515	Christian Worship
PC635	*Principles of Leadership & Management
PC690	*Project

## MINISTRY & PRACTICE - EVANGELISM AND MISSION

Electives may be chosen from any of the following:

Code	Subject
EM501	Mission Perspectives (Distance Only)
EM524	Evangelism Principles
EM603	Biblical Theology of Mission
EM604	Contemporary Theology of Mission
EM610	Aid & Development
EM615	Christian Ministry in Islamic Contexts
EM621	*Living Faiths
EM689	*Seminar
EM690	*Project

## CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

Electives may be chosen from any of the following:

Code	Subject
PE501	Introduction to Christian Ethics
PE617	Church in Australian Society
PE620	Christian Apologetics
PE690	*Project

## SUGGESTED STUDY PROGRAM

Semester	3 Subjects per semester	4 Subjects per semester
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OT501 Formative Old Testament Traditions</li> <li>• NT501 Content &amp; Setting of the Gospel Tradition</li> <li>• LA504 New Testament Greek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OT501 Formative Old Testament Traditions</li> <li>• NT501 Content &amp; Setting of the Gospel Tradition</li> <li>• CH501 The Church to 1550</li> <li>• LA504 New Testament Greek</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OT502 From Israel to Judea</li> <li>• NT502 Early New Testament Church</li> <li>• LA504 New Testament Greek</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OT502 From Israel to Judea</li> <li>• NT502 Early New Testament Church</li> <li>• CH502 The Church from 1550 to Modern Times</li> <li>• LA504 New Testament Greek</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CH501 The Church to 1550</li> <li>• LA610 Intermediate Greek</li> <li>• OT503 Principles of Hermeneutics</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• LA610 Intermediate Greek</li> <li>• OT503 Principles of Hermeneutics</li> <li>• 1 Elective</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• CH502 The Church from 1550 to Modern Times</li> <li>• Evangelism or Mission elective</li> <li>• 1 Elective or Exegesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• Evangelism or Mission elective</li> <li>• 2 Electives or Exegesis elective</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• PC641 Principles of Homiletics</li> <li>• 1 Elective or Exegesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• 2 Electives or Exegesis</li> <li>• PC641 Principles of Homiletics</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• 2 Electives or Exegesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• 1 Exegesis</li> <li>• Project</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• 2 Electives or Exegesis</li> </ul>	
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• Project</li> </ul>	