

Faculty of Theology

The Faculty of Theology offers a four-year Bachelor of Arts (Theology) degree and a two-year Graduate Diploma in Theology both of which are theological and vocational in nature. The theological disciplines provide students with a foundation for ministry and the resources with which to minister. The staff of the Faculty of Theology are deeply committed to the gospel of Jesus Christ and the ministry of the Seventh-day Adventist Church and both the Bachelor of Arts (Theology) and the Graduate Diploma of Theology are designed to prepare graduates for ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. In addition, individual subjects may be taken by interested lay persons and professionals as single, non-award subjects for Lifelong Learning credit. The degrees also provide a foundation for further reflection and advanced study.

The Faculty also offers a range of postgraduate courses in Theology and Ministry (see the Avondale Postgraduate Handbook 2005—2006).

Research Centres

Ellen G White Adventist Research Centre

Head of Centre:

Dr Lester Devine
BA Avondale, MA PUC USA, EdS Loma Linda USA, EdD Loma Linda USA

Institute of Church Ministry

Head of Centre:

Dr Alwyn Salom
BA Walla Walla College, MA Andrews, PhD Chicago

Institute of Worship

Head of Centre:

Pr Lyell Heise
BA PUC, Adv Cert in CPE Kettering USA, M Div Andrews

Staff

Dean

Ray C W Roennfeldt
RN Sydney Adventist Hospital, BA PUC, MA Andrews, PhD Andrews

Senior Lecturers

S Graeme Bradford
BA Avondale, MA Andrews, DMin Trinity International USA
Theology

H Ross Cole
BA PUC, MA Andrews, PhD Andrews
Theology

Lester D Devine
BA Avondale, MA PUC USA, EdS Loma Linda USA, EdD Loma Linda USA
Theology

Robert McIver
BSc Cant, TeachDip Christchurch TC, BA PUC, BD(Hons) Lond, MA Andrews, PhD Andrews
Theology

Douglas E Robertson
BA Avondale, MA Andrews, DMin Fuller
Theology

Ray C W Roennfeldt
RN Sydney Adventist Hospital, BA PUC, MA Andrews, PhD Andrews
Theology

Steven W Thompson
BA South Miss Coll, MDiv Andrews, PhD Andrews
Theology

Lecturers

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BA PUC, Adv Cert in CPE Kettering USA, M Div Andrews
Theology

Research Fellows

Bryan Ball
BA Newbold (Columbia Union College), MA, Andrews, PhD London
Theology

Milton Hook
BA Avondale, MA Lutheran Seminary, EdD Andrews
Research Fellow

Arthur Patrick
BA Avondale, MA Andrews, MDiv Andrews, DMin Christian Theological Seminary, MLit University of New England, 1984, PhD (Australian History) University of Newcastle
Theology

Alwyn Salom
BA Walla Walla College, MA Andrews, PhD Chicago
Ministry

Norman H Young
BA PUC, BD(Hons) Manc, PhD Manc, LittM UNE.
Theology

Bachelor of Arts (Theology)

Course code: 4882

Course coordinator: Dr Ray C W Roennfeldt

The Bachelor of Arts (Theology) degree is designed primarily to prepare graduates for ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church. The degree also provides a foundation for further reflection and advanced study.

Duration

Four years full-time or equivalent part-time

Credit points

192 credit points

Mode of delivery

On campus. A small number of first-level subjects are available in distance education mode.

Abbreviation of course title

BA(Th)

Accreditation

The degree is accredited by the NSW Department of Education and Training.

Entry requirements

The general entry requirements for Avondale degree courses are stated in the Academic Policies section of the Handbook.

The following entry requirements are specific to the Bachelor of Theology course:

- 1 Recommendation from, and telephone interview with, pastor of church currently attended by applicant.
- 2 Optional telephone interview of applicant by faculty.
- 3 At least two years must have elapsed since the applicant's baptism, during which time the applicant must have been active in a local church.

Field education requirements

There is an intentional placement of and mentoring of students in a local church during their enrolment in the BA(Th) degree. A number of specific requirements attached to several of the church ministry subjects need to be fulfilled in a local church. In order to be placed in a local church, students are required to sign a self-disclosure form (Prohibited Persons Declaration) and consent to a criminal records check. Further information is available in the Field Education Handbook.

Course structure

The BA(Th) is a four-year degree consists of a minimum of 32 x 6-credit point subjects (192 credit points) over eight semesters. All subjects are worth six credit points (unless otherwise specified) with a notional semester workload of 150 hours, averaging 10–12 hours per week (including contact hours). The course is comprised of Biblical-theological formation, pastoral formation and general education.

Summary of minimum requirements in the BA(Th) degree

Components of course	Credit Points
<i>Biblical-theological Formation</i>	
Biblical Studies	48
Biblical Languages	18
Theology and History	48
<i>Pastoral Formation</i>	
Spirituality and Ministry	54
Psychology	12
<i>General Education</i>	
Electives	12
TOTAL	192

Required subjects

Biblical Studies

NT160.1	Gospels A
NT161.2	Gospels B
NT360.1	New Testament Epistles A
NT361.2	New Testament Epistles B
NT362.2	New Testament Apocalypses
OT262.1	Pentateuch
OT265.1	Old Testament Prophets
OT361.1	Old Testament Seers and Sages

Biblical Languages

BL170.2	Hebrew A
BL160.1	New Testament Greek IA*
BL161.2	New Testament Greek IB*

Theology and History

TH161.1	Introduction to Theology
TH270.2	Ethics, Philosophy and Science in a Theological Context
TH371.2	Historical Theology (Modern Period)
TH360.1	Systematic Theology
TH361.2	Systematic Theology B
CY165.1	SDA History and Ministry of Ellen White*
CY265.1	Early and Medieval Church
HI265.2	The Reformation

Spirituality and Ministry

- CM160.1 Spiritual Formation for Pastoral Ministry
- CM161.2 Communication and Worship
- CM265.1 Homiletics
- CM281.1 Evangelism in Practice A
- CM282.2 Australian and New Zealand Religions
- CM283.1 Ministry in Practice A
- CM381.2 Evangelism in Practice B
- CM383.2 Ministry in Practice B
- CM395.1 Seminar in Philosophy of Adventist Ministry
and Mission

Psychology

- PS160.2 Developmental and Pastoral Psychology
- PS365.2 Marriage and Family Psychology

General Education

Two Electives

*Distance education versions available for subjects marked with an asterisk

Degree structure

The standard structure for the BA (Theology) degree is located on the following page.

Bachelor of Arts (Theology)

Sem				
1	NT160 Gospels A	CY165 SDA History and Ministry of Ellen White	TH161 Introduction to Theology	CM160 Spiritual Formation for Pastoral Ministry
2	NT161 Gospels B	BL170 Hebrew A	PS160 Developmental and Pastoral Psychology	CM161 Communication and Worship
3	OT262 Pentateuch	BL160 New Testament Greek IA	CY265 Early and Medieval Church	CM265 Homiletics
4	Elective	BL161 New Testament Greek IB	TH270 Ethics, Philosophy and Science in Theological Context	CM282 Australian and NZ Religions
5	NT360 Epistles A	OT265 Old Testament Prophets	Elective	CM283 Ministry in Practice A
6	NT361 Epistles B	HI265 The Reformation	TH371 Historical Theology (Modern Period)	CM281 Evangelism in Practice A
7	OT361 Old Testament Seers and Sages	TH360 Systematic Theology A	CM395 Seminar in Philosophy of Adventist Ministry and Mission	CM381 Evangelism in Practice B
8	NT362 New Testament Apocalypses	TH361 Systematic Theology B	PS365 Marriage and Family Psychology	CM383 Ministry in Practice B

Graduate Diploma of Theology

Course code: 4884

Course Coordinator: Dr Ray C W Roennfeldt

The Graduate Diploma of Theology course is designed as an initial preparation for ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church for candidates with a prior degree. The course also provides a foundation for further reflection and advanced study.

Duration

Two years full-time or equivalent part-time

Credit points

96 credit points (16 x 6-credit point subjects)

Mode of delivery

On campus

Abbreviation of course title

Grad Dip Theol

Accreditation

The program is accredited by the NSW Department of Education and Training.

General qualifications for admission to the Graduate Diploma of Theology course

Applicants must give evidence of good character, sufficient intellectual and physical health to pursue full-time graduate study, and compatibility with, and commitment to the support of College purposes, objectives, regulations, and requirements. Suitability for the course will be demonstrated in the following ways:

- 1 Positive written recommendation from pastor of church currently attended by applicant. A member of the Faculty of Theology will also interview the pastor by telephone.
- 2 Optional telephone interview of applicant by faculty.
- 3 At least two years must have elapsed since the applicant's baptism, during which time the applicant must have been active in a local church.

Academic qualifications for admission

Applicants must hold a recognised Bachelors degree or equivalent. If this degree has been pursued in a language other than English, all academic transcripts and other supporting documents must be presented in English, along

with evidence of the applicant's ability to study in the English language environment of Avondale College.

Admission with transfer credit

The course requires 96 credit points of appropriate Avondale College subjects, requiring four semesters in residence. Students seeking transfer of credits should apply to the Academic Registrar and submit full official transcripts, subject descriptions and course information, which allow credit point equivalents to be established. With the exceptions of New Testament Greek and Biblical Hebrew, students are required to complete the 96 credit points of Avondale College subjects even when transfer credit is granted in order to gain adequate exposure to the overall educational experience and sufficient pastoral formation as required by the employing body.

Should a student have equivalent transfer credit for BL160 New Testament Greek IA, BL161 New Testament Greek IB and/or BL170 Hebrew A, a challenge examination may be required in order to assess the current level of language ability.

The granting of transfer credit, however, cannot reduce the minimum time of study below four semesters of on-campus Avondale subjects, although it may lighten the student's academic load in the case of credit for biblical languages. In all other instances, any alternative elective subjects should be approved by the Course Coordinator.

Mature age entry

Since entry to this graduate diploma requires the applicant to hold a first degree or equivalent, the age of such applicants is inconsequential. The professional design of this diploma ties it closely to employment in the Seventh-day Adventist church. Such employment falls outside the jurisdiction of the College. Candidates wishing to work as clergy within the Seventh-day Adventist church upon completion of these studies are advised to inform themselves of their employment possibilities within the church before they commence this course. They are also advised to become aware of the nature of superannuation for church clergy for those entering such employment at their age.

Special entry

Admission of any applicant seeking entry on the basis of equivalents or special conditions not covered by the stipulated admission requirements will be subject to the ruling of the Admission Committee, whose decision is final.

Word processing prerequisite

All applicants are required to have word processing skills.

Preliminary reading

All successful applicants will be provided with reading lists to cover essential knowledge which is prerequisite

to their first-year subjects. Students are required to certify that they have completed the reading. The reading list may be updated annually.

Bridging course

All successful applicants will attend a three-day bridging course held at Avondale College immediately prior to the beginning of their first semester. The bridging course will focus on knowledge covered by the reading lists, plus skills necessary for carrying out field placements.

Field education requirements

There is an intentional placement of and mentoring of students in a local church during their enrolment in the Graduate Diploma of Theology course. Specific requirements attached to several of the church ministry subjects need to be fulfilled in a local church. In order to be placed in a local church, students are required to sign a self-disclosure form (Prohibited Persons Declaration) and consent to a criminal records check. Further information is available in the Field Education Handbook.

Summary of minimum requirements in the Graduate Diploma of Theology

Component of course	Credit points
<i>Biblical-theological Formation</i>	
Biblical Studies	24
Biblical Languages	12
Theology and History	18
<i>Pastoral Formation</i>	
Church Ministry	30
Pastoral Care and Counselling	6
<i>Elective</i>	
Elective	6
TOTAL	96

All subjects in the Graduate Diploma of Theology are 6-credit point subjects.

Graduate Diploma of Theology

Standard Structure

Sem				
1	BL160 New Testament Greek IA	CM265 Homiletics	TH360 Systematic Theology A	CM281 Evangelism in Practice A
2	BL161 New Testament Greek IB	NT161 Gospels B	TH361 Systematic Theology B	CM381 Evangelism in Practice B
3	BS260 Biblical Apocalypses	OT282 Pentateuchal Studies	CY265 Early and Medieval Church	CM283 Ministry in Practice A
4	Elective*	NT361 Epistles B	PS365 Marriage and Family Psychology	CM383 Ministry in Practice B

* The elective may be chosen from theology subjects prefixed by the letters BL, CM, CY, NT, OT, PS, TH and be at either 200- or 300-level.