

Faculty of Theology

The Faculty of Theology offers postgraduate courses in theology, family ministry and youth ministry, namely, the Master of Arts (Theology), the Master of Ministry (Family Ministry) and the Master of Ministry (Youth Ministry). Two of these courses allow students to complete an associated honours degree: the Master of Ministry (Family Ministry) (Honours) and Master of Ministry (Youth Ministry) (Honours). These degrees create a total of five postgraduate degrees available by coursework only, or by coursework and thesis.

The Master of Theology is a research masters degree and is designed for those students desiring to undertake research in theology or to proceed to doctoral candidacy.

A third postgraduate course is available for prospective students who already hold tertiary qualifications. The two-year Graduate Diploma in Theology course is an initial preparation for a career in ministry. (See the Avondale College *Undergraduate Handbook 2005–2006* for other courses offered by the Faculty of Theology.)

Staff

Dean

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Senior Lecturers

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Theology

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Lecturers

Lyell V Heise
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Theology

Research Fellows

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Research Fellow

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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

Research centres

Ellen G White Adventist Research Centre

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

The Ellen G White/Adventist Research Centre was established on the Avondale College campus in 1976 with Dr Arthur Patrick as the founding Director. The centre is jointly funded by the South Pacific Division and the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists and facilitates research on the history of the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Australasia, the South Pacific and internationally. It is one of several such centres around the world. Many of the research resources are available on CD-ROM and this has enabled researchers to search for information previously available only in hard copy in archives. Resources in the centre are able to support masters and doctoral programs by research as evidenced by the recent conferral of the PhD undertaken in the centre of a student enrolled at the University of Newcastle. The centre also oversees resources available in the Hon Adventist Heritage Centre and the Sunnyside Adventist Museum.

Institute of Church Ministry

Director: Douglas E Robertson
BA Avondale, MA Andrews, DMin Fuller

The Institute of Church Ministry was founded in 1986 at Avondale College by Dr Alwyn Salom. The centre moved to Sydney in 1991 and then back to Avondale College in 2001.

The Institute of Church Ministry will seek to empower local churches in Australia and New Zealand to reach the unchurched of their communities through the presentation of high quality, community-specific research data and through consultancies and equipping services

The institute fulfils two main functions: a service function and a research function. The ministry of the Institute of Church Ministry targets as its specific audience the local churches of Australia and New Zealand. At the request of local churches it provides consultancy and equipping services local leaders and members. Community profiles, training seminars, envisioning and goal setting processes are among the services offered to give churches an understanding of the demographic nature of its local community and to suggest appropriate methods for reaching the unchurched. As a service to a wider target audience, (ie conferences, unions and the South Pacific Division) the institute provides specifically-directed research data and analysis such as reports on the analysis and interpretation of the National Church Life Survey.

Specifically the Institute of Church Ministry Board functions to:

- a receive requests from local churches in Australia and New Zealand to provide consultancy and equipping services that give an understanding of the demographic nature of their respective communities and to suggest appropriate methods for reaching the unchurched
- b provide specifically directed research data and analysis of church life and community profiles to conferences, unions and the South Pacific Division.
- c make postgraduate research scholarships available from the Institute of Church Ministry Trust Fund to deserving Avondale College students to be used to further the mission of the Institute of Church Ministry while simultaneously meeting academic requirements for graduation in the following areas: MTh, MA Religion, and DMin
- d develop, promote and communicate Institute of Church Ministry services and research projects through various publications and media.

Institute of Worship

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

The purpose of the Institute of Worship is to

- a conduct and disseminate research on the topic of worship and issues related to worship.
- b develop and recommend strategies for the education and mentoring of congregations, regional worship consultants, and worship leaders
- c develop plans for ministry activities and programs which can contribute to putting the above strategies into practice
- d advise on philosophical and theological issues emerging in the process of worship education among congregations, worship leaders and students.

Master of Arts (Theology)

Course code: 2010

Course coordinator: Dr Steven Thompson

The Master of Arts (Theology) degree provides opportunity for pastors and suitably qualified lay persons to explore aspects of biblical studies, theology, ministry studies and mission at postgraduate level.

Duration

This course is offered in the part-time mode only. Students typically progress at the rate of two subjects per year and take four years to complete the course. Flexibility allows students to either ‘fast-track’ their course by taking overloads where possible, or to take fewer subjects in some years if necessary. The expectation is that the degree would be completed within a maximum of six years.

Credit points

Eight subjects totalling 24 credit points

Mode of delivery

Most subjects are delivered in mixed mode, comprising distance learning components and a residential session at Avondale College, or other designated centre, in the June–July period. The residential session provides opportunity for students to be involved in significant student-lecturer and student-student interaction.

Subjects for part-time students typically are delivered over an academic year. This extended delivery mode gives students greater flexibility in working around their work and family commitments. Assignments are required before, during and after the residential session. When the need arises, so as not to disadvantage a student’s progress, some subjects may be presented in distance education only format.

Subjects offered over an academic year

Phase 1—March–June

Students receive subject outlines, textbooks, readings, and a distance education study guide. Students work through their Phase 1 distance education materials and complete the associated assigned work. Lecturers and the course coordinator are available to communicate with students by phone or email.

Phase 2—June–July

Students attend a residential school designed to provide an integrating perspective to the subject. Personal contact with the lecturer/s and peers (at least 20 contact hours per subject), and library research is possible during this time.

Phase 3—August–December

Students complete assignments designed to foster field-based reflection and application of the concepts encountered during the first and second phases. Contact between students and lecturers is maintained via phone and email. Final assignments are due in December.

Abbreviation of course title

MA(Theol)

Accreditation

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

Entry requirements

- a four-year Bachelors degree with a major in Theology, or adequate Theology subjects within a four-year degree to support intended postgraduate study, or a three-year Bachelors degree plus honours year or one full year of postgraduate Theology study, or a Bachelor’s degree in any field plus a Graduate Diploma in Theology or Ministry.
- an applicant whose Bachelors degree was not taught in English must demonstrate English competency by achieving level 7 on the IELTS.
- an interview by a person designated by the Faculty of Theology.

Course structure

The course consists of eight 3-credit point subjects taken on a part-time basis. Students enrol in a maximum of two subjects per year. A minimum of two subjects with BT (biblical-theological) code, and two with PM (pastoral-mission) code are required. Remaining subjects are chosen from BT and PM codes, and selected LE (leadership and management) codes at the student’s discretion. A 6-credit point research project, consisting of the preparation of a paper with a maximum length of 6,000 words of text, may be substituted for the final two subjects.

Students accumulate BT, PM and selected LE subjects to meet degree requirements. There are no required subjects, elective subjects, or required subject sequences.

Group A—Biblical-Theological subjects

Biblical-Theological subjects offered include the following. Other BT coded subjects may be offered from time to time. Please contact the Course Coordinator for current offerings.

BT514	The Church in a Postmodern World	3 cr pts
BT530	Theology of Youth Ministry	3 cr pts
BT540	Preaching for Faith and Spiritual Development	3 cr pts
BT559	Exegesis of Revelation	3 cr pts
BT560	Development of SDA Theology	3 cr pts
BT561	Studies of Psalms	3 cr pts

BT562	Exegesis of Isaiah	3 cr pts
BT580	Marriage and Family in a Postmodern Context	3 cr pts

Group B—Pastoral-Mission subjects

Pastoral-Mission subjects offered include the following. Other PM coded subjects may be offered from time to time. Please contact the Course Coordinator for current offerings.

PM520	Communicating with Contemporary Youth	3 cr pts
PM521	Developing Youth Leadership in Church and Community	3 cr pts
PM522	Discipling Youth Through Small Groups	3 cr pts
PM523	Growing Youth Through Life's Challenges	3 cr pts
PM524	Outdoor Recreational Skills for Youth Ministry	3 cr pts
PM525	Youth Ministry Study Tour	3 cr pts
PM533	Advanced Studies in Lifespan Development	3 cr pts
PM534	Family Communication and Ministry	3 cr pts
PM535	Foundations of Crisis Intervention	3 cr pts
PM536	Human Sexual Behaviour	3 cr pts
PM537	Group Process: Theory and Practice in Ministry	3 cr pts
PM538	Family Ministry Study Tour	3 cr pts
PM539	Parenting and Parenting Resources	3 cr pts

Group C—Selected Leadership and Management subjects

LE502	Communication for Leadership	3 cr pts
LE503	Organisational Behaviour	3 cr pts
LE505	Change Management	3 cr pts
LE506	The Theology, Theory, and Practice of Leadership	3 cr pts

Research Project

GR501	MA (Theol) Research Project	3 cr pts
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Master of Ministry (Family Ministry)

Course code: 2013

Course coordinator: Dr Graham Stacey

The Master of Ministry (Family Ministry) course provides professionally-oriented specialised ministry education at postgraduate level. It is designed to provide practising ministers with advanced ministry insight and skills by means of an integrated program combining the study of theology and ministry with relevant insights from the human sciences and the study of contemporary culture.

Duration

Part-time only, over a minimum of four years

Credit points

Eight subjects totalling 24 credit points

Mode of delivery

Most subjects are delivered in mixed mode, comprising distance learning components and a residential session at Avondale College, or other designated centre, in the mid-year period (normally June–July). The residential session provides opportunity for students to be involved in significant student-lecturer and student-student interaction.

Subjects for part-time students typically are delivered over an academic year. This extended delivery mode gives students greater flexibility in working around their work and family commitments. Assignments are required before, during and after the residential session. When the need arises, so as not to disadvantage a student's progress, some subjects may be presented in distance education only format.

Subjects offered over an academic year**Phase 1—March–June**

Students receive subject outlines, textbooks, readings, and a distance education study guide. Students work through their Phase 1 distance education materials and complete the associated assigned work. Lecturers and the course coordinator are available to communicate with students by phone or email.

Phase 2—June–July

Students attend a residential school designed to provide an integrating perspective to the subject. Personal contact with the lecturer/s and peers (at least 20 contact hours per subject), and library research is possible during this time.

Phase 3—August–December

Students complete assignments designed to foster field-based reflection and application of the concepts encountered during the first and second phases. Contact between students and lecturers is maintained via phone and email. Final assignments are due in December.

Accreditation

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

Professional recognition

The MMin course has been designed in consultation with the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to provide suitable specialised education for persons employed in family and youth ministry leadership positions in Australia and New Zealand.

Abbreviation of course title

MMin(Family)

Accreditation

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

Entry requirements

- a Bachelors degree in Theology, or a major sequence in Theology in a Bachelors degree.
- applicants whose Bachelors degree was not taught in English must demonstrate English competency by achieving level 7 on the IELTS. Official statement of results must accompany the application form.
- a minimum of three years experience in ministry during which applicants have been accountable to an appropriate church official. Their ministry experience must be of sufficient standard to satisfy Avondale College and their employing organisation that they have potential for specialised ministry.
- a written summary of the applicant's work experience must accompany the application form.
- a written recommendation by the employing church official (must accompany the application form).
- an interview by a person designated by the Faculty of Theology.

Course structure

Six required subjects plus two elective subjects from a list of approved electives (see below). Each subject is worth 3 credit points, unless otherwise indicated.

Group A—Required subjects (18 credit points)

BT580	Marriage and Family Process in a Postmodern Context	3 cr pts
PM533	Advanced Studies in Life Span Development	3 cr pts
PM534	Family Communication and Ministry	3 cr pts
PM535	Foundations of Crisis Intervention	3 cr pts
PM536	Human Sexual Behaviour	3 cr pts
PM537	Group Process: Theory and Practice in Ministry	3 cr pts

Group B—Elective subjects (6 credit points)

BT514	The Church in the Postmodern World	3 cr pts
BT540	Preaching for Faith and Spiritual Development	3 cr pts
PM538	Family Ministry Study Tour	3 cr pts
PM539	Parenting and Parenting Resources	3 cr pts

Master of Ministry (Youth Ministry)

Course code: 2012

Course coordinator: Dr Doug Robertson

The Master of Ministry (Youth Ministry) course provides professionally-oriented specialised ministry education at postgraduate level. It is designed to provide practising ministers with advanced ministry insight and skills by means of an integrated program combining the study of theology and ministry with relevant insights from the human sciences and the study of contemporary culture.

Duration

Part-time only, over a minimum of four years

Credit points

Eight subjects totalling 24 credit points

Mode of delivery

Most subjects are delivered in mixed mode, comprising distance learning components and a residential session at Avondale College, or other designated centre, in the June–July period. The residential session provides opportunity for students to be involved in significant student-lecturer and student-student interaction.

Subjects for part-time students typically are delivered over an academic year. This extended delivery mode gives students greater flexibility in working around their work and family commitments. Assignments are required before, during and after the residential session. When the need arises, so as not to disadvantage a student's progress, some subjects may be presented in distance education only format.

Subjects offered over an academic year

Phase 1—March–June

Students receive subject outlines, textbooks, readings, and a distance education study guide. Students work through their Phase 1 distance education materials and complete the associated assigned work. Lecturers and the course coordinator are available to communicate with students by phone or email.

Phase 2—June–July

Students attend a residential school designed to provide an integrating perspective to the subject. Personal contact with the lecturer/s and peers (at least 20 contact hours per subject), and library research is possible during this time.

Phase 3—August–December

Students complete assignments designed to foster field-based reflection and application of the concepts encountered during the first and second phases. Contact between students and lecturers is maintained via phone and email. Final assignments are due in December.

Accreditation

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

Professional recognition

The MMin course has been designed in consultation with the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to provide suitable specialised education for persons employed in youth ministry leadership positions in Australia and New Zealand.

Abbreviation of course title

MMin(Youth)

Entry requirements

- a Bachelors degree in Theology, or a major sequence in Theology in a Bachelors degree.
- applicants whose Bachelors degree was not taught in English must demonstrate English competency by achieving level 7 on the IELTS. Official statement of results must accompany the application form.
- a minimum of three years experience in ministry during which applicants have been accountable to an appropriate church official. Their ministry experience must be of sufficient standard to satisfy Avondale College and their employing organisation that they have potential for specialised ministry.
- a written summary of the applicant's work experience must accompany the application form.
- a written recommendation by the employing church official (must accompany the application form).
- an interview by a person designated by the Faculty of Theology.

Course structure

Six required subjects plus two elective subjects from a list of approved electives (see below). Each subject is worth 3 credit points, unless otherwise indicated.

Group A—Required subjects (18 credit points)

BT514	The Church in the Postmodern World	3 cr pts
BT530	Theology of Youth Ministry	3 cr pts
PM520	Communicating with Contemporary Youth	3 cr pts
PM522	Discipling Youth Through Small Groups	3 cr pts
PM523	Growing Youth Through Life's Challenges	3 cr pts
PM536	Human Sexual Behaviour	3 cr pts

Elective subjects (6 credit points)

PM521	Developing Youth Leadership in Church and Community	3 cr pts
PM524	Outdoor Recreation Skills for Youth Ministry	3 cr pts
PM525	Youth Ministry Study Tour	3 cr pts
PM535	Foundations of Crisis Intervention	3 cr pts

Master of Ministry (Family Ministry) (Honours)*Course code: 2014*

Course coordinator: Dr Graham Stacey

The Master of Ministry (Family Ministry) Honours course provides professionally-oriented specialised ministry education at postgraduate level. It is designed to provide practising ministers with advanced ministry insight and skills by means of an integrated program combining the study of theology and ministry with relevant insights from the human sciences and the study of contemporary culture.

Duration

Part-time only, over a minimum of five years

Credit points

30 credit points

Mode of delivery

Most subjects are delivered in mixed mode, comprising distance learning components and a residential session at Avondale College, or other designated centre, in the June–July period. The residential session provides opportunity for students to be involved in significant student-lecturer and student-student interaction.

Subjects for part-time students typically are delivered over an academic year. This extended delivery mode gives students greater flexibility in working around their work and family commitments. Assignments are required before, during and after the residential session. When the need arises, so as not to disadvantage a student's progress, some subjects may be presented in distance education only format.

Regular access to the student's supervisor and to the Avondale College library, or other suitable library, is required during the period of research and thesis writing.

Subjects offered over an academic year**Phase—March–June**

Students receive subject outlines, textbooks, readings, and a distance education study guide. Students work through their Phase 1 distance education materials and complete the associated assigned work. Lecturers and the course coordinator are available to communicate with students by phone or email.

Phase 2—June–July

Students attend a residential school designed to provide an integrating perspective to the subject. Personal contact with the lecturer/s and peers (at least 20 contact hours per subject), and library research is possible during this time.

Phase 3—August–December

Students complete assignments designed to foster field-based reflection and application of the concepts encountered during the first and second phases. Contact between students and lecturers is maintained via phone and email. Final assignments are due in December.

Accreditation

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

Professional recognition

The MMin course has been designed in consultation with the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to provide suitable specialised education for persons employed in family and youth ministry leadership positions in Australia and New Zealand.

Abbreviation of course title

MMin (Family) (Hons)

Entry requirements

Entry to the MMin (Hons) is by transfer from the MMin course after completing a minimum of two subjects with at least a credit average mark, plus evidence in the written assignments of a potential for research and writing.

Course structure

Six required subjects plus two elective subjects from a list of approved electives (see below). Each subject is worth 3 credit points, unless otherwise indicated.

Group A—Required subjects (18 credit points)

BT580	Marriage and Family Process in a Postmodern Context	3 cr pts
PM533	Advanced Studies in Life Span Development	3 cr pts
PM534	Family Communication and Ministry	3 cr pts
PM535	Foundations of Crisis Intervention	3 cr pts
PM536	Human Sexual Behaviour	3 cr pts
PM537	Group Process: Theory and Practice in Ministry	3 cr pts
GR600	MTh Research Methodology	6 cr pts
GR505	Master of Ministry (Honours) Research Project	24 cr pts

Group B—Elective subjects (6 credit points)

BT514	The Church in the Postmodern World	3 cr pts
BT540	Preaching for Faith and Spiritual Development	3 cr pts
PM538	Family Ministry Study Tour	3 cr pts
PM539	Parenting and Parenting Resources	3 cr pts

Master of Ministry (Youth Ministry) (Honours)

Course code: 2015

Course coordinator: Dr Doug Robertson

The Master of Ministry (Youth Ministry) (Honours) course allows suitably qualified students to pursue at greater depth a selected aspect of family or youth ministry by means of a research project. The honours course builds on the Master of Ministry degree two additional research subjects, which are taken after completion of all required and elective subjects of the Master of Ministry course.

Duration

Part-time only, over a minimum of five years

Credit points

30 credit points

Mode of delivery

Most subjects are delivered in mixed mode, comprising distance learning components and a residential session at Avondale College, or other designated centre, in the June–July period. The residential session provides opportunity for students to be involved in significant student-lecturer and student-student interaction.

Subjects for part-time students typically are delivered over an academic year. This extended delivery mode gives students greater flexibility in working around their work and family commitments. Assignments are required before, during and after the residential session. When the need arises, so as not to disadvantage a student's progress, some subjects may be presented in distance education only format.

Regular access to the student's supervisor and to the Avondale College library, or other suitable library, is required during the period of research and thesis writing.

Subjects offered over an academic year

Phase 1—March–June

Students receive subject outlines, textbooks, readings, and a distance education study guide. Students work through their Phase 1 distance education materials and complete the associated assigned work. Lecturers and the course coordinator are available to communicate with students by phone or email.

Phase 2—June–July

Students attend a residential school designed to provide an integrating perspective to the subject. Personal contact with the lecturer/s and peers (at least 20 contact hours per subject), and library research is possible during this time.

Phase 3—August–December

Students complete assignments designed to foster field-based reflection and application of the concepts encountered during the first and second phases. Contact between students and lecturers is maintained via phone and email. Final assignments are due in December.

Accreditation

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

Professional recognition

The MMin course has been designed in consultation with the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to provide suitable specialised education for persons employed in family and youth ministry leadership positions in Australia and New Zealand.

Abbreviation of course title

MMin (Youth) (Hons)

Entry requirements

Entry to the MMin (Hons) is by transfer from the MMin course after completing a minimum of two subjects with at least a credit average mark, plus evidence in the written assignments of a potential for research and writing.

Course structure

Six required subjects plus two elective subjects from a list of approved electives (see below). Each subject is worth 3 credit points, unless otherwise indicated.

Group A—Required subjects (18 credit points)

BT514	The Church in the Postmodern World	3 cr pts
BT530	Theology of Youth Ministry	3 cr pts
PM520	Communicating with Contemporary Youth	3 cr pts
PM522	Discipling Youth Through Small Groups	3 cr pts
PM523	Growing Youth Through Life's Challenges	3 cr pts
PM536	Human Sexual Behaviour	3 cr pts
GR600	MTh Research Methodology	6 cr pts
GR505	Master of Ministry (Honours) Research Project	24 cr pts

Elective subjects (6 credit points)

PM521	Developing Youth Leadership in Church and Community	3 cr pts
PM524	Outdoor Recreation Skills for Youth Ministry	3 cr pts
PM525	Youth Ministry Study Tour	3 cr pts
PM535	Foundations of Crisis Intervention	3 cr pts

Master of Theology

Course code: 2011

Course coordinator: Dr Ray Roennfeldt

The Master of Theology is a research course focusing on religion, theology, ministry and/or mission studies.

Duration

Full-time, minimum of two years, part-time, minimum of four years.

Credit points

30 credit points

Mode of delivery

Distance education or

Abbreviation of course title

MTh

Accreditation

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

Entry requirements

- a a four-year Bachelors degree with a major in Theology, or adequate Theology subjects within a four-year degree to support intended field of research, or a three-year Bachelors degree plus honours year or one full year of postgraduate study in Theology, or a Bachelors degree in any field plus a Graduate Diploma in Theology or Ministry.
- b suitability for research and writing demonstrated by two major essays or research papers done as part of undergraduate course requirements.
- c applicants whose Bachelors degree was not taught in English must demonstrate English competency by achieving Level 7 on the IELTS.
- d an interview by a person designated by the Faculty of Theology.

Course structure

The Master of Theology is a research masters degree. Students undertake:

GR600	MTh Research Methodology	6 cr pts
GR610	MTh Thesis	24 cr pts

The MTh thesis

A thesis with a maximum length of 50,000 words of text reporting the results of the student's research is to be presented to the student's thesis supervisor for approval. The thesis is expected to demonstrate originality, critical insight, and a capacity for independent research. A contribution to knowledge is expected. The thesis should put forward a clearly argued and well-supported position for a new result, idea, theory or practice. It should set out and remain within clear boundaries.

Choice of thesis topic

Any proposed topic should build upon appropriate academic, conceptual, and practical capacities already acquired by the student from relevant previous study and professional practice.

Supervision of MTh thesis

The thesis is supervised by an appropriately qualified research supervisor appointed by Research and Higher Degrees Committee on the recommendation of the Dean of the Faculty of Theology. The Dean will interview the student to determine the field of research and to ensure that the student has adequate access to library and other relevant resources. Supervisors will be chosen, as far as possible, whose current or past research directly overlaps the proposed thesis topic.

Assessment of the MTh Thesis

See Postgraduate Theses in the Academic Policies section of the Handbook.

Graduate Diploma in Theology

Course code: 4884

Course Coordinator: Dr Ray C W Roennfeldt

The Graduate Diploma in 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 course is accredited by the NSW Department of Education and Training.

General qualifications for admission to the Graduate Diploma in 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 member of the Faculty of Theology.
- 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 in 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 in 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 in Theology are 6-credit point subjects.

Graduate Diploma in Theology
Standard Structure

Sem				
1	BL160 New Testament Greek 1A	CM265 Homiletics	TH360 Systematic Theology A	CM281 Evangelism in Practice A
2	BL161 New Testament Greek 1B	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