

School of Ministry and Theology

The School of Ministry and Theology offers two postgraduate coursework degrees in theology and ministry, namely the Master of Arts (Theology) and the Master of Ministry.

The School also offers two graduate diplomas: the Graduate Diploma in Theology (one year) and the Graduate Diploma in Ministry (one year). Students may undertake these courses separately, however, students who hold tertiary qualifications and wish to prepare for the ministry in the Seventh-day Adventist Church, may undertake both graduate diplomas concurrently. The two-year program is an initial preparation for a career in ministry. (See the Avondale Undergraduate Handbook 2011–2012 for other courses offered by the School of Ministry and Theology).

Staff

Head of School

A/Prof. Robert McIver
BSc Cant, TeachDip Christchurch TC, BA PUC, BD(Hons) Lond, MA Andrews, PhD Andrews

Senior Lecturers

Dr H Ross Cole
BA PUC, MA Andrews, PhD Andrews
Old Testament

Dr Rick Ferret
RN SAH, BA Theol Avondale, MA La Sierra, PhD Sydney College of Divinity
Pastoral Care

Dr Lyell V Heise
BA PUC, Adv Cert in CPE Kettering USA, M Div Andrews, DMin Fuller
Ministry

Dr Murray House
BA Theol Avondale, MA Religion Andrews, DMin Fuller
Ministry

Dr Douglas E Robertson
BA Avondale, MA Andrews, DMin Fuller
Ministry

Dr Steven W Thompson
BA South Miss Coll, MDiv Andrews, PhD St Andrews
New Testament

Lecturers

Dr Kayle de Waal
BA(Theol) Andrews, MA (Theol) Durban-Westville, PhD Auckland
Theology

Dr Wendy Jackson
BHB Auckland, MBChB Auckland, Dip Paed Auckland, FRACP
Royal Aust College of Physicians, Paed End Fell Cincinnati Children's Hospital, MDiv Andrews
Theology

Dr John Skrzypaszek
BA (Theol) Avondale, MA (Theol), Avondale, DMin Australian College of Theology
Adventist Studies

Honorary Senior Research Fellows

Dr Bryan Ball
BA Newbold (CUC), MA, Andrews, PhD Lond
Theology

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

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

Dr Arthur Patrick
BA Avondale, MA Andrews, MDiv Andrews, DMin Christian Theological Seminary, MLit UNE, 1984, PhD Newcastle
Theology

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

Conjoint Staff

Dr Darius Jankiewicz
BA (Th) Avondale, MDiv (Andrews), PhD (Andrews)
Historical Theology

Dr SookYoung Kim
BS Yonsei, MS Chung Nam, MDiv Andrews, PhD Andrews
Intertestamental Studies

Dr Graham Stacey
BAppSci Curtin, BA (Theol) Avondale, MA Loma Linda, MSc Loma Linda, PhD Loma Linda
Pastoral Psychology

Dr Koot van Wyck
BTh (Religion) Andrews, BA Uni Sth Afr, BA(Hons) Uni Sth Afr, MA Stellenbosch, DLit & Phil, Uni Sth Afr, DTh, Rikkyo
Old Testament

Dr Grenville J.R. Kent
BA Comms, BA Theol, MA Film, MA Hons Theol, PG Cert Comm Mktg, PhD (Manchester) Old Testament
Biblical Studies

Consultancy

Ellen G White Adventist Research Centre

Head of Centre: Dr John Skrzypaszek
BA (Theol) Avondale, MA (Theol), Avondale, DMin Australian College of Theology

The Ellen G White/Adventist Research Centre was established on the Avondale campus in 1976. 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, 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. The centre also oversees resources available in the Adventist Heritage Centre. Resources are also available at the Sunnyside Historic Home and the South Sea Islands Museum.

Consultancy

Institute of Worship

Head of Centre: Dr Lyell Heise
BA PUC, Adv Cert in CPE Kettering USA, M Div Andrews, DMin Fuller

The purpose of the Institute of Worship is to:

- conduct and disseminate research on the topic of worship and issues related to worship.
- develop and recommend strategies for the education and mentoring of congregations, regional worship consultants, and worship leaders.
- develop plans for ministry activities and programs which can contribute to putting the above strategies into practice.
- 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 Convenor: Dr Ross Cole

The Master of Arts (Theology) course is open to students with a 4-year Bachelor of Arts (Theology) degree; a Bachelor of Theology/Bachelor of Ministry degree, or with both a Graduate Diploma in Theology and a Graduate Diploma in Ministry. It provides such graduates with an opportunity for further professional development, if they do not wish to take a Master of Ministry course, but want to focus instead on the critical evaluation of Christian theology from a Seventh-day Adventist perspective. Using perspectives gained from other academic disciplines, students learn to construct theological perspectives which engage with and respond to their contemporary context.

Duration

This course is offered in the part-time mode only. Students typically progress at the rate of two units per year and take four years to complete the course. The expectation is that the degree would be completed within a maximum of six years.

Credit points

A total of 48 credit points, usually made up of 8 units of 6 credit points each. However, THES59300 MA(Theol) Research Project may be taken for 12 credit points.

Mode of delivery

Most units are delivered in mixed mode, comprising distance learning components and a residential session at Avondale, 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.

Students receive unit outlines, textbooks, readings, and a distance education study guide. Lecturers and the Course Convenor are available to communicate with students by phone or email. Students also attend a residential school designed to provide an integrating perspective to the unit. Personal contact with the lecturer/s and peers and library research is possible during this time. Finally students complete assignments designed to foster field-based reflection and application of the concepts encountered. Contact between student and lecturer is maintained via phone and email.

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 units within a four-year degree to support intended postgraduate study; a three-year Bachelors degree plus honours year plus one full year of postgraduate Theology study; or two years of a graduate entry degree in religion, theology, or pastoral studies, or its equivalent (e.g., a one year Graduate Diploma in Theology and a one-year Graduate Diploma in Ministry)

An applicant whose Bachelor's degree was not taught in English should demonstrate English competency by achieving a minimum of level 6 in each of the bands and an overall minimum of level 6.5 on the IELTS or a standardised equivalent.

Applicants who apply for a course of study at Avondale must submit documentary evidence of the qualifications required for entry into that course. An original or certified copy of the required qualification must be sighted, or an official letter from the issuing institution. Individuals who have previously undertaken tertiary studies must supply a certified copy of the full transcript of their academic record(s) at the previous institution(s). Qualifications submitted in a language other than English must be accompanied by a certified official translation of any document not in English. Individuals who cannot provide documentation of qualifications due to extenuating circumstances must provide a statutory declaration stating the qualification and their inability to obtain documentation.

Where any question of authenticity or detail arises the Academic Registrar may correspond with the issuing authority to verify the documentation at hand.

Where an individual has falsified qualifications, identity, other documentation or information used to assess entry to a course of study their enrolment in that course of study will be discontinued, and/or any grades or qualifications awarded be rescinded by the Academic Registrar.

Course structure

One Core Unit

THBB50100 Orientation to Graduate Biblical and Theological Studies

Five - Seven Biblical and Theological Studies Units

THBB50200 A Theology of Health and Wellbeing

THBB50300 Perspectives on Biblical Apocalypses

THBB50400 Seventh-day Adventism: A Case Study in Apocalypticism, Time, and Change

THBB50500 Postmodernism and Beyond

THBB50600 Intertextuality and Early Christian Literature

THBB50700 Exegesis of the Psalms

THBB51000 Issues in Contemporary Theology

THBB51100 Theology and Function of Prayer

THBB53000 New Perspectives on Pauline Epistles

THES59300 MA(Theol) Research Project may be taken at 12 credit points for the writing of an extended project. No more than twelve credit points for THES59300 in total will count towards meeting the requirements of the MA (Theol) degree.

Up to two Electives

Up to two electives may be taken from units listed under the Biblical and Theological specialisation in the previous row or from other units offered in related accredited master's level programs.

Rules of Progression

The core unit "Orientation to Graduate Biblical and Theological Studies" should be taken in the first half of the course. Independent Research units should not be taken until the last half of the course.

Planned Sequence of Unit Offerings

The following sequence presents the route we envisage a part time MA(Theol) student starting in 2011 would take, if (s)he chooses to take all units in biblical and theological studies in a minimal time framework without doing a research project.

2011

THBB50400 Seventh-day Adventism A Case Study in Apocalypticism, Time, and Change

THBB50600 Intertextuality and Early Christian Literature

2012

THBB50300 Perspectives on Biblical Apocalypses

THBB50700 Exegesis of the Psalms

2013

THBB50200 A Theology of Health and Wellbeing

THBB53000 New Perspectives on the Pauline Epistles

2014

THBB50500 Postmodernism and Beyond

THBB51100 Theology and Function of Prayer

Master of Ministry

Course code 2016

Course Convenor: Dr Ross Cole

The Master of Ministry degree is designed to provide postgraduate education for persons seeking to follow various ministry vocations within the church and parachurch contexts. Specialisations may be selected in the areas of church renewal and pastoral leadership, family ministry, youth ministry, pastoral care, and general church ministry. The course is designed to provide practising professionals 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, normally a minimum of four years

Credit points

Eight units totalling 48 credit points

Mode of delivery

Most units are delivered in mixed mode, comprising distance learning components and a residential session at Avondale, 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.

Students receive unit outlines, textbooks, readings, and a distance education study guide. Lecturers and the Course Convenor are available to communicate with students by phone or email. Students also attend a residential school designed to provide an integrating perspective to the unit. Personal contact with the lecturer/s and peers and library research is possible during this time. Finally students complete assignments designed to foster field-based reflection and application of the concepts encountered. Contact between students and lecturers is maintained via phone and email.

Abbreviation of course title

MMin

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 Board of Ministerial and Theological Education of the South Pacific Division of the Seventh-day Adventist Church to provide suitable specialised education for persons employed

in various ministry leadership vocations in Australia and New Zealand.

Entry requirements

General Avondale statement

Avondale welcomes applications from individuals regardless of race, gender, status or religious affiliation. Admission to, and continuation at Avondale is dependent on evidence of good character and intellectual competence, support of the philosophy and mission of Avondale and a willingness to conform to college regulations.

Admission requirements

Places in the Master of Ministry course will normally be available to applicants with a 4-year bachelors degree in theology, religion, ministry or equivalent, or a major sequence in theological studies at the undergraduate level in a 4-year study program.

Alternate admission may be granted to applicants with a bachelors degree in alternate areas of “ministry” and the “people-caring” professions (eg teaching, social work, counselling, chaplaincy, medicine and nursing) provided the applicant has a sequence of at least three units in theology, religion, ministry or equivalent, taken at the undergraduate level and they have successfully completed 4-years of previous higher educational study. Should applicants lack such an undergraduate sequence, they may make up this deficit via study through Avondale’s distance education program. Admission will be granted at the discretion of the Dean and the Course Convenor.

Normally applicants will be required to have a minimum of two years experience in a ministry setting, during which they have been accountable to an appropriate professional or official. (A written summary of the applicant’s work experience and a written recommendation from an accountable official will be required before admission is finalised.)

NOTES:

- 1 An official academic transcript must accompany the application form.
- 2 Applicants whose bachelors degree was not taught in the English language medium will demonstrate English competency by achieving level 7 on the IELTS.

Advanced standing

Credit transfer is available for equivalent tertiary level units completed elsewhere (See the Avondale website for further information). Note that no more than 50% of the course may be granted as advanced standing.

Course structure

The course requires eight 6-credit units at 500-level or above. Three units are required core units which must be completed irrespective of the specialisation chosen. Two further units comprise required specialisation units and three units may be chosen from among the electives for the various specialisations.

The following grid provides an outline of typical programs for the five Master of Ministry specialisations.

Master of Ministry Standard course structure				
Three Required units THBB50500 Theological Framework for Ministry Practice CMIN50300 Advanced Life Span Development for Ministry CMIN50400 Pastoral Care Counselling Skills I				
Church Renewal and Pastoral Leadership Specialisation	Church Ministry (coherent sequence)	Family Ministry Specialisation	Youth Ministry Specialisation	Pastoral Care Specialisation
Two Core Specialisation units				
CMIN51500 Christian Leadership in the Local Church	CMIN51500 Christian Leadership in the Local Church	CMIN52400 Marriage and Family Process	CMIN55300 Crisis Intervention for Ministry	CMIN55400 Group Process: Theory and Practice in Ministry
CMIN55300 Crisis Intervention for Ministry	THBB51500 Theology for Contemporary Adventism (unless the student has completed a full theological training)	CMIN55300 Crisis Intervention for Ministry	CMIN55400 Group Process: Theory and Practice in Ministry	CMIN54400 Pastoral Care Counselling Skills II
Three Specialisation Elective units (from the following lists)				
CMIN51300 Practice of Church Planting	CMIN51300 Practice of Church Planting	CMIN55500 Human Sexual Behaviour	CMIN55500 Human Sexual Behaviour	CMIN55200 Family Communication and Ministry
CMIN51400 Worship Renewal	CMIN54200 School Chaplaincy Workshop	CMIN55200 Family Communication and Ministry	CMIN53200 Outdoor Recreational Skills for Youth Ministry	CMIN54200 School Chaplaincy Workshop
CMIN55400 Group Process: Theory and Practice in Ministry	CHTR58200 Master of Ministry Study Tour	CMIN52300 Parenting and Parenting Resources	CMIN53300 Youth Ministry Practicum	CMIN54300 School Chaplaincy Practicum
CMIN51600 Evangelism Workshop	NOTE This example is based on a pastor who is involved in a church plant, doing some school chaplaincy, and needs exposure to the cutting edge in contemporary ministry methods. Other professionals may need up-skilling in other areas of general ministry practice.)	CMIN55400 Group Process: Theory and Practice in Ministry	THBB51400 Church and Ministry in Contemporary Society	Equivalent of two units: one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (400 hours)—arranged through NSW College of Clinical Pastoral Education, Sydney College of Divinity, and Sydney Adventist Hospital
THBB51500 Theology for Contemporary Adventism		CMIN52500 Theoretical Framework for Children's Ministry	CHTR58200 Master of Ministry Study Tour	
CMIN51700 Advanced Homiletics Workshop		CMIN52600 Workshop in Children's Ministry Practice	CMIN59200 Directed Study in Ministry	
THBB51400 Church and Ministry in Contemporary Society		THBB51400 Church and Ministry in Contemporary Society	General elective at 500-level and above	THBB51500 Theology for Contemporary Adventism
CMIN59200 Foundations of Health Ministry		CMIN59200 Foundations of Health Ministry	CMIN59200 Foundations of Health Ministry	CMIN59200 Foundations of Health Ministry
CHTR58200 Master of Ministry Study Tour		CHTR58200 Master of Ministry Study Tour		CHTR58200 Master of Ministry Study Tour
CMIN59200 Directed Study in Ministry		CMIN59200 Directed Study in Ministry		CMIN59200 Directed Study in Ministry
General elective at 500-level and above		General elective at 500-level and above		General elective at 500-level and above
NOTE: 1 Each student must complete either a field-based practicum unit, a directed study unit, or a ministry tour unit 2 Theoretical/foundational units must be completed before commencement of a practicum				