

Updated 20/01/2010



SECTION FOUR

Diploma Award Program & Specific Regulations

Diploma of Theology – DipTh

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DIPLOMA OF THEOLOGY (DipTh) AWARD SUMMARY

Entry Requirements:	Satisfactory completion of Year 12 in the Australian school system, or its equivalent; or Mature Age and Special Entry Admissions for those who have reached the age of 21
Duration:	2 years full-time or 6 years part-time
Mode:	Full-time, part-time.
Structure:	144 credit points (i.e. 16 units).
English Proficiency:	Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally require a minimum IELTS (or equivalent) score of 6.0 with no result below 5.5.
Fees	Contact the Member Institution with which you intend to enrol.
Contact	The Registrar of one of the following Member Institutions: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Australian College of Ministries• Emmaus Bible College• Nazarene Theological College• Salvation Army Booth College• Alphacrucis

Graduate Profile and Rationale

The Diploma of Theology provides students with the opportunity to undertake pre-bachelor award level study in theological disciplines. It is designed for those who have a less formal educational background than those undertaking the BTh award, or those who are seeking an award requiring less overall commitment than the degree.

The Diploma of Theology provides students with introductory study across a range of theological disciplines. It also provides some opportunity to gain knowledge and skills appropriate for Christian ministry but not necessarily of the breadth or depth required for professional ministry. It is designed for Christians seeking a sound foundation for informed participation in the local church, para-church ministries, and in the wider community. The course is offered in four main sub-disciplines – Biblical Studies, Theology, Church History, Pastoral Theology and Practice.

Outcomes

Students should be able to:

- appreciate the importance of critical methods in interpreting scripture

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- demonstrate a working knowledge of the historical contexts and social settings of the major biblical texts
- understand the main issues for Christian theology
- demonstrate an ability in bringing biblical and theological insights to bear on pastoral dimensions of Christian faith
- communicate the faith in a manner which brings together knowledge and personal experience.

Enrolment

The Diploma of Theology is offered through individual Member Institutes. In light of the units offered students are able to choose their program to suit their interests and needs, all the while fulfilling the requirements. Details are available from the Member Institute offering the course.

Articulation to Other Awards

Students who complete the Diploma of Theology can articulate into the Bachelor of Theology and can receive block credit of 96 credit points into the BTh distributed according to the units they have undertaken in their program.

ACADEMIC REGULATIONS for the Diploma of Theology

1 Admission to Candidature

- 1.1 An applicant for admission to candidature for a degree of Diploma of Theology shall:
 - (a) have satisfactorily completed Year 12 in the Australian school system, or its equivalent;
or
 - (b) have reached the age of 21 and so satisfy the requirements for Mature Age Entry;
or
 - (c) have adequate grounds for Special Entry.
- 1.2 A candidate for a Diploma of Theology shall be designated as full-time or part-time. A student is designated as a full-time if enrolled in three units (27 credit points) or more in a semester or part-time if enrolled in less than three units (27 credit points) per semester.
- 1.5 No candidate for the DipTh may be concurrently enrolled in any other undergraduate or postgraduate course within the Sydney College of Divinity or any other tertiary institution, , unless approval has been granted by the Academic Board.
- 1.6 Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally will be required to demonstrate competency in English by an IELTS (or equivalent) result of 6.0 with no score below 5.5.
- 1.7 Application for enrolment in the diploma program is made to the Registrar of the appropriate Member Institution offering the program.

2 Course Structure

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2.1 The Diploma of Theology requires the completion of 144 credit points (16 units) which shall include:

- (a) at least 27 credit points in Biblical Studies;
- (b) at least 27 credit points in Theology;
- (c) at least 9 credit points in Church History
- (d) at least 27 credit points selected from a range of Pastoral Theology and Practice, Missiology, Theological Ethics, Liturgical Studies and Christian Spirituality subjects;
- (e) a further 54 credit points chosen from approved units.

2.2 All course units shall be taken from the Schedule of Units of Study for the Diploma awards.

3 *Period of Candidature:*

3.1 The period of candidature for the degree shall normally be 2 years full-time and 6 years part-time.

3.2 In certain circumstances the Student Administration Committee may grant extensions.

4 *Leave of Absence*

4.1 The Student Administration Committee may grant leave of absence from the Diploma of Theology. The period of leave shall not be counted as part of the period of candidature for the degree.

4.2 The period of leave shall normally be one semester after which a candidate may apply for a further period of one semester or is required to complete candidature.

5. *Assessment*

5.1 The assessment of subject units shall be in the manner approved by the Academic Board in line with the College's established guidelines for assessment packages at undergraduate level.

5.2 Students may be required by the Academic Board to present themselves for oral examination.

5.3 Academic and non-academic misconduct will be penalised severely in accordance with the regulations of the Sydney College of Divinity.

6. *Credit*

6.1 A candidate may seek credit up to a maximum of 96 credit points in the Diploma of Theology.

7 *Saving Clause*

7.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Academic Board of the Sydney College of Divinity may, in any case in which it may deem it appropriate to do so, vary, dispense with or suspend any requirement or prescription by these regulations, and report forthwith to the Council of the Sydney College of Divinity.