

MULTI-STREAMING POLICY

Policy to phase out the practice of multi-streaming undergraduate and graduate course units in the Sydney College of Divinity

It has long been the practice of the Sydney College of Divinity not to multi-stream postgraduate course students (i.e. students undertaking 600-700 level course units as part of the theology postgraduate award, Master of Theology) with undergraduate students (i.e. students undertaking 100-300 level course units as part of the theology undergraduate award, Bachelor of Theology). In recent years, it has been the practice of the Sydney College of Divinity to multi-stream undergraduate course students (ie students undertaking 100-300 level course units as part of the theology undergraduate award, Bachelor of Theology) with graduate students (ie students undertaking 400-500 level course units as part of their graduate entry into theology through the awards Master of Arts and Master of Divinity). This has occurred, in part, because of the Master of Divinity, as the graduate entry point into theological studies, mirrors the Bachelor of Theology in structure and content.

In the 2007 Re-accreditation of graduate and postgraduate awards, the NSW Department of Education has requested that the Sydney College of Divinity phase out the practice of multi-streaming undergraduate (100-300 level) and graduate course units (400-500 level) such that, henceforth, only foundational course units (100 and 400 level) be multi-streamed such that, however, there be no common tutorials in the conduct of such course units.

The following strategy has been adopted by the Sydney College of Divinity in order to phase out the practice of multi-streaming beyond foundational units. In developing this strategy, the Sydney College of Divinity has sought to achieve the following outcomes

1. The phasing out of the current practice of multi-streaming of undergraduate and graduate course units in such a way as to advance as far as possible, in the most expeditious time, those students who have been enrolled according to existing procedures and practices;
2. The phasing in of programs conducted through stand-alone graduate course units.

The strategy agreed to by the Academic Board of the Sydney College of Divinity, and communicated to all Member Institutions of the College, is

1. Through 2008 the practice of multi-streaming will continue as in the past. This allow the most number of **currently** enrolled students to advance their program of studies in the Master of Arts and Master of Divinity awards, according to the procedures and practices of the terms of their enrolment, towards completion as far as possible
2. In 2009, to allow the practice of multi-streaming only in
 - a. foundational course units, on the provision that such course units be conducted without common tutorials and with clearly differentiated course unit outlines, outcomes, assessment and reading requirements;
 - b. and 300 and 500 level course units;

3. In 2010, to only multi-stream foundational course units, on the provision that such course units be conducted without common tutorials and with clearly differentiated course unit outlines, outcomes, assessment and reading requirements.

Given the adoption of this strategy, it has been clearly communicated to individual Member Institutions that it is incumbent upon them to reflect carefully on whether they are in a position to accept

1. henceforth new enrolments into the Master of Divinity Award
2. new enrolments into the Master of Arts Award in 2008

It will thus be incumbent, also, upon Member Institutions to advise their students in the following way:

In regard to students currently enrolled in the Master of Divinity Award

Current Master of Divinity students may therefore wish to consider a range of options

- To complete their Master of Divinity in the next couple of years
- To amend their enrolment from the Master of Divinity program to a Bachelor of Theology program
- To envisage exiting the Master of Divinity in the next couple of years with one of the following awards:
 - Graduate Certificate in Arts (possible after 4 course units)
 - Graduate Diploma of Arts (possible after 8 course units, according to existing structures and procedures)
 - Master of Arts (possible after 12 course units)
 - Transfer your enrolment to another tertiary provider

In regard to students currently enrolled in the Master of Arts Award

Current Master of Arts students may therefore wish to consider a range of options

- To complete their Master of Arts, with their current specialization, in the next couple of years
- To envisage exiting the Master of Arts award in the next couple of years with one of the following awards:
 - Graduate Certificate in Arts (possible after 4 course units)
 - Graduate Diploma of Arts (possible after 8 course units, according to existing structures and procedures)
 - To transfer your enrolment to another tertiary provider