COURSE HANDBOOK

ALPHACRUCIS UNIVERSITY COLLEGE
MASTER OF DIVINITY

OVERVIEW

INSPIRED LEARNING FOR INFLUENTIAL LIVING		
The Master of Divinity provides an advanced body of knowledge and professional application for graduates in the areas of Christian ministry and theology.	Director	Jeffrey Aernie
	AQF Level	AQF Level 9 (Postgraduate)
	Qualification	Masters Degree (Coursework)
	Subjects	24
	IELTS	7.0
	Languages of Instruction	English, Finnish, Korean, Spanish
	CRICOS Code	115071G
	ASCED Code	091703
	Accreditation	Self-accredited (accredited in 2023)
	Course Length	3 years full-time; up to 10 years part-time

The Master of Divinity is designed to provide postgraduate-level education in the areas of Biblical Studies, Ministry, and Theology. This course draws on Alphacrucis' established areas of expertise and provide clarity on the relevant areas of professional study. The purpose of this AQF Level 9 coursework program is to provide an advanced body of knowledge and professional application for graduates in the areas of Christian ministry and theology.

The Master of Divinity is designed to introduce students to the disciplines of theology at an advanced level. It provides students an opportunity to progress from foundational to advanced knowledge in each of the classic disciplines of theology, including Biblical Studies, Church History, Practical Theology, and Systematic Theology. The course is designed for students who have completed undergraduate study in a discipline other than theology.

The Master of Divinity is designed to produce graduates who have an in-depth understanding of Christian worldview and its integration with vocation and community. In addition to developing skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and communication skills, the graduates will be equipped with advanced knowledge of theory in the areas of Biblical Studies, Ministry, and Theology, and the application of theoretical concepts in practical settings. Each also prepares students for further study by inclusion within the structured program of the requirement for independent research.

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COURSE STRUCTURE

The course structure is based on six semesters, with 4 subjects taught in each semester, comprising:

- Core Subjects — 110 credit points
- Restricted Electives — 50 credit points
- Electives — 70 credit points
- Capstone — 10 credit points

To qualify for award of the degree of Master of Divinity a candidate shall complete at least 240 credit points, including satisfactory completion of the core subjects noted below.

CONTENT OF THE COURSE OF STUDY		CREDIT POINTS
CORE SUBJECTS	ACA401 Faith and Purpose BIB404 Old Testament Foundations BIB405 New Testament Foundations BIB504 Biblical Interpretation CCM401 Introduction to Cross Cultural Ministry HIS402 Church History Foundations MIN401 Foundations of Pastoral Ministry MIN402 Christian Spirituality THE405 Introduction to Theology THE501 Christ and Salvation THE503 Spirit and Church	11x10
RESTRICTED ELECTIVE SUBJECTS	20 credit points BIB 500 level 20 credit points MIN 500 level 10 credit points THE 500 level	5x10
ELECTIVE SUBJECTS	20 credit points at 400 level or above 50 credit points at 500 level or above* Electives may be taken in the disciplines of Biblical Studies (BIB), Cross Cultural Ministry (CCM), History (HIS), Ministry (MIN), Theology (THE), or Worship Studies (WOR) *Students undertaking RES501 complete 40 credit points at 500 level or above	7x10 OR 6x10
CAPSTONE	RES500 Independent Guided Research (10cp) RES501 Research Project (20cp)** **Students undertaking RES501 complete 10 fewer elective credit points	1x10 OR 1x20
RULES OF PROGRESSION	Students must achieve a minimum GPA of 2.8 to enrol in RES501.	
OTHER PROTOCOLS OF THE COURSE	10 credit points per subject with 1 point being 10 hours of study per week. Total hours per subject is 130 hours. No more than 10 subjects at 400 level.	
BRIDGING/ NESTED COURSES	Subject to program criteria, students may exit early with a Graduate Certificate in Arts, a Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies, a Graduate Diploma in Arts, a Graduate Diploma in Theological Studies, a Master of Arts, or a Master of Theological Studies.	

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PROPOSED COURSE PROGRESSION	**Year 1**	
	Semester 1	**Semester 2**
	• ACA401 Faith and Purpose • BIB404 Old Testament Foundations • CCM401 Introduction to Cross Cultural Ministry • MIN401 Foundations of Pastoral Ministry	• HIS402 Church History Foundations • BIB405 New Testament Foundations • MIN402 Christian Spirituality • THE405 Introduction to Theology
	Year 2	
	Semester 3	**Semester 4**
	• BIB5xx (Elective) [Recommended: BIB554] • MIN5xx (Elective) [Recommended: MIN501 or MIN503] • THE501 Christology • THE5xx (Elective) [Recommended: THE504]	• BIB5xx (Elective) [Recommended: BIB534] • MIN5xx (Elective) [Recommended: MIN504] • THE503 Spirit and Church • 5xx (Elective) [Recommended: THE508]
	Year 3	
	Semester 5	**Semester 6**
	• 4xx or 5xx (Elective) • 4xx or 5xx (Elective) • 5xx (Elective) • 5xx (Elective) [or RES501]	• BIB504 Biblical Interpretation • 5xx (Elective) • 5xx (Elective) • RES500 Independent Guided Research [or RES501]

For information on the teaching faculty, please visit our website.

Graduate Pathways

Students who have successfully completed this course may progress into one of AC's higher degree research courses. Graduates are advised to contact the Future Students Team for information on eligibility requirements for further study.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of the Master of Divinity may find employment in ministry or church-based organisations; not-for-profit and mission-focused organisations; community service-oriented positions; and, positions that require skills in research and critical thinking. Additionally, graduates may progress further in the pathway toward doctoral studies upon completion of the Master of Divinity.

Work-Integrated Learning

Work-Integrated Learning may be undertaken through various Professional Practice and Professional Experience subjects at AC. These subjects seek to create a direct linkage between the learning, skills and values engaged in lectures, and the reflection which occurs when these are applied in real-life settings. These work-based training subjects comprise of instruction, academic assessment and a placement in a workplace for each subject.

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To qualify for the award of the Master of Divinity, a candidate is not required to complete any Professional Practice subjects. Students who chose to complete a professional practice subject are usually required to find their own workplace/ employer/ mentor to be approved by AC. In some cases, a new aspect within a student's current paid employment may be suitable as a work placement.

For further information related to Work-Integrated Learning please see the Professional Practice Handbook on Moodle or contact our Student Support team.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Academic Entry Requirements

Applicants with Recent Secondary Education

This course of study requires the completion of a higher education qualification by an authorised institution. Applicants with recent high school education only are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

Applicants with Vocational Education and Training Study

This course of study requires the completion of a higher education qualification by an authorised institution. Applicants with a Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification only are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

Applicants with Higher Education Study

Applicants whose highest level of study enrolment since leaving secondary education is a higher education qualification must demonstrate the completion of an AQF Level 7 Bachelor degree (or higher) by an authorised institution in an area other than Theology for admission into this course.

Applicants with Work and Life Experience

This course of study requires the completion of a higher education qualification by an authorised institution. Applicants who have not completed formal higher education study are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

For further information about AC's provisional entry criteria, please see:

- *AC's Admissions Requirements*
- *Higher Education Provisional Entry Policy*
- *Admissions Policy*

English Language Proficiency

Overseas students are required to demonstrate their English proficiency skills. Such students admitted into our programs must attain an overall IELTS (or equivalent) score of 7.0 (with no score below 6.5 in any of the four skills areas). IELTS (or equivalent) is not required for applicants who have undertaken five years of required higher education study (or equivalent) in English from an approved country or who have completed a Certificate IV or higher qualification awarded in English under the Australian Qualification Framework by an authorised institution or registered training organisation.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the [International Student Office](#) if they are unsure of the equivalence of their English language proficiency test scores.

Special Admissions Pathways

AC's [Admissions Policy](#) details the special admission pathways for our courses of study. The Special Admission Pathways are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Program Director. A student's admission requirements may be reconsidered on educational disadvantage grounds, including but not limited to:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, where the normal HSC entry path has not been followed;
- socioeconomic reasons (such as low-family income or poor living conditions);
- learning or language difficulties;
- disrupted schooling;
- physical disability;
- serious family illness or excessive family responsibility;
- geographical isolation of home and/or school;
- completion of a prescribed program of non-award study (four subjects or 40 credit points) with an overall GPA of 1.8 or better.

For a full list of educational disadvantage grounds, please see AC's [Admissions Policy](#).

AC GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

Christian Worldview

A knowledge of the Christian story, derived from the Scriptures and tradition of the church. An awareness of the implications of this story for self-identity in the context of local and global communities. This includes a commitment to engage with alternate worldviews, showing appreciation of the values and perspectives of others.

Leadership

The ability to provide effective Christian leadership to individuals, groups and organisations, demonstrated in the capacity to influence and enable others to accomplish worthwhile objectives which contribute to the human good and the kingdom of God. This includes seeking to emulate the example of Jesus Christ in serving and empowering others.

Integrity and Justice

The ability to apply a Christian worldview in the diverse situations and responsibilities of life, and to exercise faith, hope, love and generosity as prevailing attitudes. This includes the active promotion of the gospel, social justice, equality, mutual respect and an ecological ethos.

Communications

The ability to communicate effectively to a range of audiences, in appropriate contexts using high levels of verbal, written and technological skills. This includes visual and media literacy, numeracy, rhetoric and persuasion.

Personal and Social Skills

Demonstrate relational skills that incorporate the flexibility for both independent and collaborative situations. This includes personal and group organizational skills, conflict management and resolution, as well as the ability to value and respect the opinions of others.

Critical and Creative Thinking

A capacity for critical and reflective thinking that is explored not only individually but within a community context. This includes a capacity to be creative and to research, analyse and resolve problems in innovative and prophetic ways.

Professional Knowledge

Maintenance and use of knowledge about a discipline or field, involving theoretical, conceptual and methodological elements. This includes striving continually and independently to secure further knowledge and where appropriate, defined professional skills.

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LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	Level 9: Masters Degree	AC Course Learning outcomes	AC Graduate Attributes
Knowledge	Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will have: • a body of knowledge that includes the understanding of recent developments in a discipline and/or area of professional practice; • knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to a field of work and or learning.	Demonstrated: • advanced and integrated understanding of key issues and practices within the disciplines of Biblical Studies, Church History, Ministry, and Theology; • knowledge of scholarship and recent developments in the disciplines of Biblical Studies, Church History, Ministry, and Theology; • understanding of general research principles and methods, and advanced knowledge of specific research approaches used in the theological disciplines.	Christian Worldview Critical and Creative Thinking Professional Knowledge
Skills	Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will have: • cognitive skills to demonstrate mastery of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on theory and professional practice or scholarship; • cognitive, technical and creative skills to investigate, analyse and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories and to apply established theories to different bodies of knowledge or practice; • cognitive, technical and creative skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level; • communication and technical research skills to justify and interpret	Demonstrated ability to: • evaluate, synthesise and critically engage the theoretical knowledge in the relevant areas of the study; • examine a complex problem or issue using appropriate methodologies and theories from the discipline; • analyse and synthesise ideas and theories from related disciplines; • design a research question that explores a complex issue and to provide possible solution(s) to the problem raised; • communicate effectively complex ideas and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences; • identify and critically evaluate new developments of research and scholarship in the relevant theological disciplines.	Christian Worldview Leadership Integrity and Justice Communication Personal and Social Skills Critical and Creative Thinking Professional Knowledge

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	Level 9: Masters Degree	AC Course Learning outcomes	AC Graduate Attributes
	theoretical propositions, methodologies, conclusions and professional decisions to specialist and non-specialist audiences; • technical and communication skills to design, evaluate, implement, analyse and theorise about developments that contribute to professional practice or scholarship.		
Application of knowledge and skills	Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will demonstrate the application of knowledge and skills: • with creativity and initiative to new situations in professional practice and/or for further learning; • with high level personal autonomy and accountability; • to plan and execute a substantial research-based project, capstone experience and/or piece of scholarship.	Demonstrated ability to: • articulate new questions or issues and apply the knowledge and skills developed within the relevant theological disciplines to develop appropriate solutions; • work independently, responsibly and with the level of professionalism expected of an expert in the selected disciplinary fields; • design and implement a major research project in the selected disciplinary fields.	Christian Worldview Leadership Integrity and Justice Communication Personal and Social Skills Critical and Creative Thinking Professional Knowledge

DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

AC is committed to providing a learning environment that is free from discrimination on the basis of income, age, disability, social and ethnic background, location or gender. AC endeavours to increase opportunities for people of all backgrounds to participate in training programs, and implement programs that take into account the specific needs of participants. AC encourages students to inform AC of any disability, medical condition or learning need that may impact on your studies to arrange a study plan that best suits your needs.

HOW TO APPLY

Once you have chosen your course of study, you will need to apply direct to AC. Applications typically close 3 weeks before semester commences.

All AC application forms are completed online. There are different forms depending on the level of study you are applying for and the location of your course.

Further information on How to Apply and access to AC's Application Forms is available on our website.

Credit transfers and recognised prior learning (RPL)

You may be entitled to credit for prior learning, whether formal or informal. Formal learning can include previous study in higher education, vocational education, or adult and community education. Informal learning can include on the job learning or various kinds of work and life experience. Credit can reduce the amount of study needed to complete a degree.

For further information about credit and recognition of prior learning please see AC's [Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#) or contact our [Student Support](#) team.

HOW TO ENROL

Once you have returned a signed copy of your Letter of Offer to accept your place at AC, you will be invited to enrol in your specific subjects in the next academic period. Students are advised to consult their timetable (can be found [here](#)), and contact the [Student Support Team](#) for tailored academic advice before completing the enrolment form.

Applications for credit transfers or recognised prior learning will be communicated to you once they have been processed.

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STUDENT SERVICES

Student Support Team
AC's Student Support Team exists to ensure you get from Orientation Day to Graduation Day with a smile on your face!

Academic Support
- Tailored academic guidance
- Assessment variation to accommodate disabilities, medical conditions and/or learning needs
- Exam reader/writers
- One-on-one tutoring and small group workshops for face-to-face and distances students
- Physical libraries
- Access to online journal databases
- Access to eBook resources
- Resources are also provided online for self-development

Non-Academic Support
- Pastoral Care
- Chaplains
- Professional counselling
- Careers guidance
- On –campus childcare*
- Extra-curricular and community services
- SRC – The Student Representative Council
- Recreation areas

Student Life
All students can take part in:
- mission trips and community service projects
- weekly chapel services
- lunches and gatherings on campus
- opportunities to hear or present research
- masterclasses to take your skills and knowledge to the next level
- social events both on and away from campus
- exchange programs with other colleges and universities around the world

…and much, much more! To find out what is happening near you or to get specific details just contact the Student Support Team:

Email: studentsupport@ac.edu.au
Phone: (02) 8893 9005
https://www.ac.edu.au/student-services/

*Not available at all campuses

Last updated: January 2025

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STUDENT PROFILE

The table below gives an indication of the likely peer cohort for new students at AC. It provides data on students that commenced study and passed the census date in the most relevant recent intake period for which data are available, including those admitted through all offer rounds and international students studying in Australia.

Applicant background	Reporting Year: 2024	
	Number of students	**Percentage of all students**
(A) Past higher education study (includes a bridging or enabling course)	<5	N/P
(B) Past vocational education and training (VET) study	N/A	N/A
(C) Work and life experience (Admitted on the basis of previous achievement other than the above)	N/A	N/A
(D) Recent secondary education: • Admitted solely on the basis of ATAR (*regardless of whether this includes the impact of adjustment factors such as equity or subject bonus points*)	N/A	N/A
• Admitted where both ATAR and additional criteria were considered (*e.g. portfolio, audition, extra test, early offer conditional on minimum ATAR*)	N/A	N/A
• Admitted on the basis of other criteria only and ATAR was __not__ a factor (*e.g. special consideration, audition alone, schools recommendation scheme with no minimum ATAR requirement*)	N/A	N/A
International students	N/A	N/A
All students	***<5***	***N/P***

Note: "<5" – the number of students is less than 5.

N/A – Students not accepted in this category.

N/P – Not published: the number is hidden to prevent calculation of numbers in cells with less than 5 students.

ATAR-based offers only	ATAR
Highest rank to receive an offer	N/A
Median rank to receive an offer	N/A
Lowest rank to receive an offer	N/A

Note: "<5" – the number of students is less than 5.

Note: This table relates to all students made an offer on the basis of ATAR alone or ATAR in combination with other factors. Students admitted into a course of study based on a Special Admission Pathway or otherwise not based on their ATAR are not included in this table.

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WHERE TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION

ac.edu.au

AC's website is the best place to discover what's happening at AC and explore our courses, campuses and support services. If you are not yet an AC student, our Future Students team are here to help find the right course for you!

Moodle

Once you begin your studies at AC, you will use Moodle as your Learning Management System (LMS) to access all your subject content, the AC Academic Handbook, Study Skills and Textbook Information. New Students can also use Moodle to view our Induction Videos.

International Students

Nothing beats the experience of being part of our community and participating in our classroom discussions! Alternatively, for students who decide to study from their home country, AC brings education to you by offering many subjects and degrees by distance education allowing you to study from anywhere in the world. Flexible delivery means that you will have access to our e-Learning platform which provides resources, podcasts, online forums and tutor assistance that allows you to complete your studies from your home country.

Further information about International Students, including the application process, international recognition of AC courses of study and FAQ's, is available on our website.

Alternatively, our Future Students team are available to answer any questions you may have about your requirements as an onshore or offshore International Students at AC.

QILT

Thinking about higher education institutions and study areas? Wish you could ask someone about their experience? The QILT website helps you compare official study experience and employment outcomes data from Australian higher education institutions.

TEQSA National Register

The purpose of the TEQSA National Register is to be the authoritative source of information on the status of registered higher education providers in Australia.

Complaints and Grievances

If you are unsatisfied with the outcome of your application, AC's Complaint and Grievance Resolution Policy outlines the procedure for resolving a complaint or grievance.