Diploma in Theology

Designed as a foundational theological qualification for church and ministry workers in a range of fields, the Diploma in Theology provides you with opportunities to gain theological knowledge and to apply that knowledge to the practice of ministry. Graduates may proceed to the Advanced Diploma in Theology and Ministry, the Bachelor of Ministry or Bachelor of Theology.

How do I start?

If you would like course advice, contact the Academic Dean, Dr Stephen Haar (Deans.Office@alc.edu.au).

If you want to start immediately, simply visit the www.alc.edu.au/education/enrol/higher-education/enrolment-forms page, fill out the application for admission form and return to enrolments@alc.edu.au.

I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord ... to give you a future with hope.

Jeremiah 29:11
Introduction to theology and ministry

The Diploma in Theology [DipTheol] is a one year full-time course. It is an introduction to the study of theology and also allows for some level of specialisation for students wanting to explore specific areas of ministry in the church and society. The DipTheol introduces students to the key theological disciplines of Biblical Studies and Christian Thought and History. This is extended by further study in electives in the area of practical ministry studies.

The DipTheol provides a basic initial qualification for those wishing to prepare for specific roles in lay ministry such as youth work, aged care, lay chaplaincy in schools, etc. The DipTheol is a recognised pathway for lay worker accreditation in the Lutheran Church of Australia.

As an accredited course, the DipTheol allows eligible students who decide to continue with the study of theology to build on their diploma to the Advanced Diploma in Theology and Ministry, the Bachelor of Theology or the Bachelor of Ministry.

Entry requirements

- Successful completion of Year 12 in an Australian secondary school, or equivalent.
- Probationary admission is available to approved students who have not completed Year 12.
- Where the first language is other than English, the University of Divinity English language proficiency requirements apply.

I commend the Diploma in Theology as an excellent introductory course in theology and ministry.

Dr Stephen Haar
Academic Dean

What will I study?

The Diploma in Theology consists of 120 credit points typically made up of eight individual units.

Course outcomes

The DipTheol enables students to:

- gain an integrated introduction to Christian theology in general, and Lutheran theology in particular
- become familiar with the literature, language and concepts of theology
- develop the personal and academic skills to reflect theologically on, and to apply theological insights to, issues and challenges in church and society
- explore the relationship between theology and the practice of ministry
- investigate specific aspects of theology relevant to special areas of ministry
- develop interpersonal and teamwork skills for planning, organising and carrying out ministry for church and society
- develop a theological framework for future self-directed or formal study
- undertake studies in a specialised area of interest relevant to the particular needs of the student.

Course structure

2 x Biblical Studies units
1 x Systematic Theology unit
1 x Church History unit
4 x elective units

What will I study?

The following units are recommended to complete core requirements of the DipTheol:

- The Bible Today A
- The Bible Today B
- The Christian Faith
- History of Christianity* (not available in 2019)

You can choose four elective units from the following:

- Foundations of Evangelism
- Pastoral People 1
- Pastoral People 2
- Survival Skills for Practical Ministry
- Pastoral People at Work (a ministry placement unit)
- A Church History unit with another UD College is encouraged. Consult with the ALC course adviser.

Studying by distance education?

The following on campus units are recommended to complete core requirements of the DipTheol:

- Bible Introduction 1
- Bible Introduction 2
- Prolegomena and the Triune God or Lutheran Confessions
- A Church History unit
- Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counselling
- Foundations of Christian Worship and Spiritual Formation

Studying on campus?

You can choose 4 elective units from the following on campus classes:

- Introduction to Teaching for Ministry
- Hebrew 1 or New Testament Greek A
- Introduction to Pastoral Care and Counselling
- Foundations of Christian Worship and Spiritual Formation

and many other units...

Study options

The course is one year full-time or up to four years part-time.

You can undertake the DipTheol as an online student or by attending classes on campus.