



Alphacrucis University College

COURSE HANDBOOK

MASTER OF THEOLOGICAL STUDIES

School of Ministry and Theology

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Overview

Master of Theological Studies (TSM)	Program Director	Tim Healy
	AQF Level	AQF Level 9 (Postgraduate)
	Qualification	Masters Degree (Coursework)
	Subjects	16
	ILETS	7.0
	Languages of Instruction	English, Finnish, Korean, Spanish
	CRICOS Code	115070H
	ASCED Code	091703
	Accreditation	Self-accredited (accredited in 2023)
	Course Length	2 years full-time; up to 8 years part-time
	Entry Requirements	https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/master-of-theological-studies/

COURSE OVERVIEW

The Master of Theological Studies 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 these AQF Level 9 Master's coursework programs is to provide an advanced body of knowledge and professional application for graduates in the areas of Christian ministry and theology.

The Master of Theological Studies provides an opportunity for students, especially those with prior engagement in theological study, to undertake enhanced study in a theological discipline for professional development or to prepare for further study.

The Master of Theological Studies 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. This program also prepares students for further study by inclusion within the structured program of the requirement for independent research.



Course Structure

Note: Contact the Student Support Team for access to previous course version.

This course structure applies to students enrolled from Semester 2, 2023 onwards.

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

- Core Subjects — 50 credit points
- Specialisation — 60 credit points
- Electives — 40 credit points
- Capstone subject — 10 credit points (20cp capstone subject and 30cp electives)

To qualify for award of the degree of Master of Theological Studies a candidate shall complete at least 160 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 MIN401 Introduction to Pastoral Ministry THE405 Introduction to Theology	5 x 10
Specialisation	Students must specialise in one of the following discipline areas: 1. Biblical Studies (ANL/BIB) 2. Ministry and Mission (CCM/MIN/WOR) 3. Theology (THE) 60 credit points in relevant discipline area, which must include one of the following: • BIB601 — Methods in Biblical Studies (20cp) • MIN601 — Theory and Practice in Ministry (20cp) • THE601 — Theologians: Method and Meaning (20cp)	4 x 10 1 x 20
Electives	30 credit points at 400 level or above* 10 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 do not have this requirement	4 x 10 OR 3 x 10
Capstone	RES500 Independent Guided Research (10cp) RES501 Research Project (20cp) *** ***Students undertaking RES501 complete 10 fewer elective credit points Using this course as a pathway into Higher Degree Research. <i>Students seeking a pathway to a PhD or another HDR program must complete the RES592 (20-credit-point) capstone; this is a minimum</i>	1 x 10 OR 1 x 20

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	<i>eligibility requirement and does not guarantee admission to an HDR program.</i>	
Rules of progression	Students who have completed a Bachelor of Ministry or Bachelor of Theology at AlphaCrucis receive advanced standing of 40 credit points and exemptions without credit for the core subjects. 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 8 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, or a Master of Arts.	



Recommended Course Progression

Based on a full-time study mode

CORE	SPECIALISATION	ELECTIVES	CAPSTONE
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First Year			
Semester 1		Semester 2	
ACA401	Faith and Purpose	BIB405	New Testament Foundations
BIB404	Old Testament Foundations	Elective (400 level or above)	
MIN401	Introduction to Pastoral Ministry	Elective (400 level or above)	
THE405	Introduction to Theology	Elective (400 level or above)	
Second Year			
Semester 3		Semester 4	
Specialisation (500 level or above)		Specialisation (500 level or above)	
Specialisation (500 level or above) or RES501 Research Project		Specialisation (500 level or above)	
BIB601 MIN601 THE601		RES501 Research Project [continued] or RES500 and Elective (500 level or above)	



Course Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to demonstrate:

- advanced and integrated understanding of key issues and practices within the specialisations of: Biblical Studies; Ministry; and Theology
- knowledge of scholarship and recent developments in the area of the specialisations;
- understanding of general research principles and methods, and advanced knowledge of specific research approaches used in the selected disciplinary field.

Graduates will be able to demonstrate the 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 selected disciplinary field.
- articulate new questions or issues and apply the knowledge and skills developed within the selected disciplinary field 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



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.

To qualify for the award of the Master of Theological Studies, 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.

Other Course Information

For other course information, such as information on Professional Accreditation and available intakes, visit the course web page:

<https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/master-of-theological-studies/>

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Useful Links

AC WEBSITE



<https://www.ac.edu.au/>

ACADEMIC CALENDAR



<https://www.ac.edu.au/key-dates/>

HOW TO ENROL



Please see the [Timetable](#) for available subjects and contact [Student Support Team](#) for tailored academic advice before completing the enrolment form.

AC POLICIES



<https://ww1.ac.edu.au/ppm/>

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Enrolled students will have access to AC's [LMS](#)

FEES



<https://www.ac.edu.au/fees-financing/>

STUDENT FORMS



<https://www.ac.edu.au/forms/>

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES



<https://ww1.ac.edu.au/ppm/graduate-attributes-policy/>



Student Support

The Student Support team are available if you need assistance. Email the team via: studentsupport@ac.edu.au or book a phone or video call via: [Bookings](#)

Phone: (02) 8893 9005

<https://www.ac.edu.au/student-services/>

For disability support please contact dso@ac.edu.au



Appendix 1

COURSE PROGRESSION TRACKING TEMPLATE

Master of Theological Studies

Student:	
Student ID number:	
Year of commencement:	

Master of Theological Studies requirements:

- Core Subjects — 50 credit points
- Specialisation — 60 credit points
- Electives — 40 credit points
- Capstone subject — 10 credit points (20cp capstone)

50 cp Core subject Subject Code & Name	Subject Credit Points	Comments

60 cp of Specialisation Subject Code & Name	Subject Credit Points	Comments

40 cp or 30 cp of electives Subject Code & Name	Subject Credit Points	Comments

10 or 20 cp of electives Subject Code & Name	Subject Credit Points	Comments

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