

ACD BACHELOR OF MINISTRY AND ASSOCIATE DEGREE OF MINISTRY

The Bachelor of Ministry (BMin) is a professional degree providing the basic pastoral and theological competence required for effective ministry in the Christian tradition. The primary focus of the degree is on the practice of ministry based on a thorough biblical, historical and theological understanding. Supervised field education in ministry provides ground for the ongoing development of attitudes and skills appropriate to mature Christian faith and service.

The Bachelor of Ministry aims to enable students to:

- Acquire grounding in the methods of biblical, historical and systematic theology as a basis for reflection on ministry;
- Develop initial skills for pastoral ministry; and
- Achieve personal growth in ministry through the integration of theory and practice.

The Bachelor of Ministry takes three years of full-time study to complete, or part-time equivalent. Students can choose to exit with the Associate Degree of Ministry (AssocMin) after completing two years of full-time study or equivalent. Those wishing to complete the Associate Degree can choose topics in one of two streams, Pastoral Ministry or Theological Studies.

The Associate Degree of Ministry (Pastoral Ministry) provides students with a strong foundation in the full range of theological disciplines - biblical studies, historical and systematic theology and pastoral studies – that underpin pastoral ministry. The award also requires the study of specific aspects of pastoral ministry as a direct preparation for the practical work of pastoral ministry.

The Associate Degree of Ministry (Theological Studies) also provides students with a strong foundation in the full range of theological disciplines. An up-to-date understanding of the major concepts and theories involved enhances both students' own lives and the ministries in which they are already engaged. Additional study in the area of bible and theology enables students to both broaden and deepen their initial studies.

Course Outcomes

The Associate Degree provides a broad-based point of entry to employment in lay ministries particularly within the Catholic, Anglican and Uniting churches. It will provide:

- foundational underpinnings in the basic disciplines of biblical studies, historical & systematic theology and pastoral studies;
- acquisition of academic skills and attributes to access, comprehend and evaluate information from a range of sources;
- ministry related skills relevant to a range of employment contexts such as lay leader, parish worker, chaplain, youth leader, etc.;
- a capacity for self-directed and lifelong learning.

The Bachelor Degree provides the groundwork for lay or ordained ministries. Graduates will have:

- an understanding of Christian ministry and its underlying principles and concepts;
- communication and problem solving skills;
- the ability to undertake research, analyse information and apply knowledge and techniques learnt within an academic or professional context;
- skills for self-directed and lifelong learning; and
- interpersonal and teamwork skills appropriate to employment and/or further study.

Admission

- 1) For admission to the course of study for the Bachelor of Ministry an applicant shall:
 - a) have completed the final year of secondary schooling in the Australian secondary system or have attained an educational level considered to be equivalent by the Board;
 - b) have an application for admission endorsed by a constituent member college of the ACD; and
 - c) not be concurrently enrolled in any other course of study, unless such study involves the cross-listing of topics to be accredited to this degree.
- 2) Provisional Admission:
 - a) An applicant who has not fulfilled the educational qualifications for admission specified above may be granted provisional entry status by the Board for a specified period on such conditions as may be determined in each case. Only in exceptional circumstances may such provisional entry status be renewed.
 - b) If a candidate granted provisional entry status fails to comply with the conditions prescribed within the period specified the provisional entry status shall lapse.

To Qualify for the Bachelor of Ministry or the Associate Degree of Ministry

- 1) To qualify for the Associate Degree in Ministry (Pastoral Ministry) a student shall complete 72 units which shall include:
 - 19.5 units minimum in Biblical Studies with a grade of P or better;
 - 19.5 units minimum in Historical and Systematic Theology with a grade of P or better;
 - 27 units minimum in Pastoral Studies with a grade of P or better;
 - 6 units of electives in any of the three areas of study approved by the academic advisor in their ACD college and completed with a grade of P or better.
- 2) To qualify for the Associate Degree of Ministry (Theological Studies) a student shall complete 72 units which shall include:
 - 25.5 units minimum in Biblical Studies with a grade of P or better;
 - 25.5 units minimum in Historical and Systematic Theology with a grade of P or better;
 - 9 units minimum in Pastoral Studies with a grade of P or better;
 - 6 additional units in Biblical Studies and/or Historical and Systematic Theology completed with a grade of P or better;
 - 6 units of electives in any of the three areas of study approved by the academic advisor in their ACD college and completed with a grade of P or better.
- 3) To qualify for the Bachelor of Ministry Degree a student shall complete 108 units (including BMIN 3501 Supervised Field Education evaluated as satisfactory). The 108 units shall include:
 - 31.5 units minimum in Biblical Studies with a grade of P or better;
 - 31.5 units minimum in Historical and Systematic Theology with a grade of P or better ;
 - 33 units minimum in Pastoral Studies with a grade of P or better;
 - 12 units of electives in any of the three areas completed with a grade of P or better.