

2. Postgraduate Diplomas

2.1 Postgraduate Diploma in Theology – PGDip (Theology) (445100, one-year duration) (445101, two-year duration) (NQF level 8)

Religion and Culture focus

The MPhil in Religion and Culture is preceded by a Postgraduate Diploma in Theology done with a Religion and Culture focus. You register for the Postgraduate Diploma in Theology, and for your research assignment you should research a theme that relates to Religion and Culture.

Target Group

- Students without any theological training, from a variety of backgrounds and disciplines and who have previously obtained a bachelor's (BSc, BA or similar) degree on NQF level 7.
- Students with a three-year qualification in theology (exit-level NQF level 7) who do not qualify to continue with an MDiv, MTh or Postgraduate Diploma in Theology in Christian Ministry.

Specific Admission Requirements

- Any bachelor's degree (NQF level 7) or equivalent qualification, that need not necessarily be in theology; or
- An equivalent qualification from this or another university or seminary approved for this purpose by Senate or by the Executive Committee acting on behalf of Senate.

Teaching and Learning Requirements

This programme is presented in a hybrid format and therefore includes online activities such as lectures and submitting your assessments through SUNLearn; for this reason, you must have stable access to the internet, as well as data and a computer or similar electronic device.

Closing Date for Applications

- If you are a South African citizen, you must apply before 30 October of the year preceding study.
- If you are an international student, you must apply before 30 September of the year preceding study.

Duration of Programme

You can enrol to complete this programme in **one year** or over **two years**. If you choose to do the programme over two years, you will complete your research project in the second year.

Presentation Structure

- Electronic learning by using SUNLearn (the learning management system of Stellenbosch University), and MS Teams (the team collaboration platform of Stellenbosch University), which includes contemporary teaching techniques, online discussion groups with fellow students and lecturers and electronic assignments.
- Modules (year modules) are offered in block-contact sessions throughout the year.

Contact Sessions

Synchronous and asynchronous teaching and learning contact sessions will be conducted with the assistance of the SUNLearn and MS Teams platforms (details in the PGDip information booklet).

Orientation

Two orientation sessions are planned per year, each at the start of a semester. The purpose of these sessions is to provide students with necessary information, introduce them to lecturers, and answer general questions.

Teaching and Learning

This will be done in block-contact sessions throughout the year. A programme will be included in the programme guide and the module framework and will be distributed electronically at the beginning of each academic year.

Workshops

Workshops on research methodology, academic writing, selection and access to resources and the use of electronic databases will be presented. These workshops are compulsory for students enrolled for the research assignment (60-credit) module and will only be presented at the start of each year.

Assessment and Examination

Assessment of the 10-credit modules is by means of diagnostic, formative, and summative assessments as communicated in the module frameworks. The 60-credit module is assessed by means of a written research assignment and an oral examination which includes the writing of book reviews.

Submission dates for research assignments:

- 1 November for the December graduation; and
- 15 January for the March graduation.

The research assignment is examined by an internal, as well as an external examiner.

Take note: graduation is dependent on a student completing all modules successfully (i.e. minimum requirement of 50%).

Continued Study Possibilities

After completion of this programme, you:

- could continue further studies/research in theology through the Master in Theology (NQF level 9), Master of Divinity (NQF level 9) or the Postgraduate Diploma in Theology in Christian Ministry (NQF level 8).

Programme Outcomes

When you have completed this programme, you should:

- have a broad overview of a variety of theological disciplines for your personal enrichment;
- be able to identify problems and have developed critical analytical thinking.
- have a basic understanding of methodology and research in theology.

The programme offers:

- An introduction to, orientation in, and understanding of the position of theology as a field of study on postgraduate level.
- A general orientation in:
 - Old Testament studies
 - New Testament studies
 - systematic theology
 - ecclesiology
 - practical theology
 - missiology

Programme Structure

The programme consists of:

- Six compulsory modules of 10 credits each. These six modules cover the six main subjects, Ecclesiology, Missiology (including Community Development), New Testament, Old Testament, Practical Theology, and Systematic Theology. These modules are offered in block sessions throughout the year.
- A research assignment in your field of specialisation. The research topic for the assignment will depend on your choice of elective module. The elective module is offered over one year and includes contact sessions on research methodology and academic writing, including sessions between the supervisor and the student.

One-year programme

We recommend that the following students consider the one-year programme:

- students who have already received training in theology, and
- students who are not employed full-time.

You will be expected to:

- Attend orientation sessions and sessions on research methodology and academic writing.
- Attend contact sessions for all six the 10-credit modules, do assignments and write exams.
- Write and submit a research assignment. This 60-credit module includes extensive reading in the area of specialisation as well as a research assignment and oral examinations.

Two-year programme

We recommend that the following students consider the two-year registration programme:

- students without any training in theology, and
- students who are employed full-time.

During the first year, you are expected to:

- Attend orientation sessions.
- Attend contact sessions for all six the 10-credit modules, do assignments, and write exams.

During the second year, you are expected to:

- Attend sessions on research methodology and academic writing.
- Write and submit a research assignment. This 60-credit module includes extensive reading in the area of specialisation as well as a research assignment and oral examinations.

Programme Content

Total 120 credits

If you enrol to complete the programme in one year:

Compulsory Modules (credits = 60)

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Ecclesiology | 711(10) |
| Missiology | 711(10) |
| New Testament | 711(10) |
| Old Testament | 711(10) |
| Practical Theology | 711(10) |
| Systematic Theology | 711(10) |

plus

Elective Modules (credits = 60)

Choose one subject from the list below. The focus of the elective will determine the topic of your research assignment.

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Ecclesiology | 742(60) |
| Missiology | 742(60) |
| New Testament | 742(60) |
| Old Testament | 742(60) |
| Practical Theology | 742(60) |
| Systematic Theology | 742(60) |

If you enrol to complete the programme in two years:

FIRST YEAR (72 CREDITS)

Compulsory Modules (credits = 60)

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Ecclesiology | 711(10) |
| Missiology | 711(10) |
| New Testament | 711(10) |
| Old Testament | 711(10) |
| Practical Theology | 711(10) |
| Systematic Theology | 711(10) |

SECOND YEAR

Elective Modules (credits = 60)

Choose one subject from the list below. The focus of the elective will determine the topic of your research assignment.

| | |
|---------------------|---------|
| Ecclesiology | 742(60) |
| Missiology | 742(60) |
| New Testament | 742(60) |
| Old Testament | 742(60) |
| Practical Theology | 742(60) |
| Systematic Theology | 742(60) |

Disclaimer:

The content above comes from the 2024 Theology Yearbook. Make sure to consult the full **Theology Yearbook** to see this extract in context and to check if there have been any changes. Take special note of additional information in the yearbook under section **1. Summary and explanation of postgraduate programmes**