

MTh (NQF level 9)

Target Group

The various MTh Programmes are aimed at students who wish to undertake advanced studies in a specific theological field of study.

Specific Admission Requirements

- Any degree programme in Theology at NQF level 8, or any other appropriate four-year qualification equivalent to a four-year training deemed by Senate to be suitable for the proposed study; and
 - you must comply with further requirements that the relevant discipline group may set;
 - during your Theology studies you must have maintained an average achievement of at least 60% in the subject in which you wish to acquire the MTh degree, and obtained an average of 60% in the final year of Theology-related studies preceding the MTh degree;
 - you must have applied in writing and have been admitted to the MTh programme by Senate, or by the Executive Committee acting on behalf of Senate; or
- A BAHons (Religious Studies) which you have obtained after a BA (with Theology) at this University, or some other honours degree deemed equivalent by Senate, or if you have achieved in another way a standard of competence in your particular field of study, deemed adequate by Senate; and
 - you must comply with further requirements that the relevant discipline group may set;
 - during your Theology studies you must have maintained an average achievement of at least 60% in the subject in which you wish to acquire the MTh degree, and obtained an average of 60% in the final year of Theology-related studies preceding the MTh degree;
 - you must have applied in writing and have been admitted to the MTh programme by Senate, or by the Executive Committee acting on behalf of Senate; or
- If you have passed this University's Postgraduate Diploma in Theology with an average of at least 65%, you may apply to sit an admission examination, as determined by the relevant discipline group, with a view to enrolment for the MTh programme.
- If you wish to write an MTh thesis, you must submit a research proposal in which the research problem, the research methodology and the method of work are set out to the satisfaction of your supervisor(s).

Supplementary Language Requirements

- If you do not meet the language requirements such as German, Latin, etc. as set by the relevant discipline group, you must supplement the language requirements preferably before, or otherwise during, the first phase of the MTh programme.
- If you must do supplementary studies in Greek and Ancient Near Eastern Languages and Cultures with a view to registration for the programmes MTh and PhD, you must report to the relevant discipline groups **before** 1 October of the preceding year, so that special arrangements can be made for you.
- International candidates who have obtained their qualifications from tertiary institutions where English is not the language of instruction are required to provide proof of English Language proficiency. **This evidence must accompany your application and must not be**

older than 24 months from the date of application to the University.

- The minimum English language requirements and recognised language tests for admission to Stellenbosch University's postgraduate degree programmes are available via the Prospective Postgraduate Student website (www0.sun.ac.za/pgstudies/english-language-requirements-2.html).
- You will not be allowed to take any examination in the programme for which you are registered before a certificate in English communication skills has been obtained.

Supplementary requirements with regard to major subjects

The following additional requirements apply to the various subjects when they are chosen as major subjects for MTh studies. If you do not meet these requirements, you must complete the outstanding module(s).

- Ecclesiology: If necessary, Latin I.
- New Testament: Appropriate language requirements as determined by the discipline group in the light of your research proposal.
- Old Testament: Appropriate language requirements as determined by the discipline group in the light of your research proposal.
- Old and New Testament: Appropriate language requirements as determined by the discipline group in the light of your research proposal.
- Systematic Theology: Relevant requirements as determined by the discipline group.
- The supervisor can also recommend that the Faculty of Theology set additional requirements necessary for a particular field of study.

Closing Date for Applications

- Admissions of new applications for MTh programmes are considered twice a year, namely in May and October. Therefore, if you have not obtained your preceding qualification at this university, the closing dates for applications are:
 - 1 May (for enrolment as from the second semester); or
 - preferably, 1 October (for enrolment as from the first semester of the following year).
- If you have obtained your preceding qualification at SU, your application will be considered immediately.
- Apply to the Registrar and state your area of specialisation.
- Direct queries about the application procedure to the Faculty administrator at shirle@sun.ac.za.

Duration of Programme

- The duration of the MTh programme is at least one year.
- A supervisor may, after consultation with the discipline concerned, require a minimum period of six months' residence for MTh students from outside Southern Africa.

Assessment and Examination

- Of candidates following the structured option, also called 889 candidates:
 - You do a final oral examination which covers the prescribed subject matter and the

assignment and (where applicable) the evaluation of practical work. The examination is set by at least the discipline groups involved with the main subject and supplementary subjects.

- The research assignment must be approximately 50–60 pages long.
- Assignments are discussed as part of the examination:
 - You must hand in an electronic pdf version and at least three printed copies of the assignment at the administrative officer of the disciplinary group concerned in time for the final examination; or
 - You must hand in at least eight printed copies of the assignment at the administrative officer of the disciplinary group concerned in time for the final examination.
- If you are a student in the MTh (Practical Theology: Clinical Pastoral Care), MTh (Practical Theology: Ministry) and MTh (Practical Theology: Youth Ministry), you must refer to the Faculty of Theology's Postgraduate Policy and Agreement document, which you have received during registration.
- The research assignment is examined and moderated internally and is also examined externally.
- Of candidates following the thesis option, also called 879 candidates:
 - You do a final oral examination which covers the prescribed subject matter and the thesis and (where applicable) the evaluation of practical work. The examination is set by at least the discipline groups involved with the main subject and supplementary subjects.
 - When you, as 879 candidate, declare yourself ready for the examination, and should your thesis be examined in the presence of the Faculty Board, you must:
 - hand in an electronic pdf version and at least three printed copies of the thesis either **before** 1 September (for the December graduation ceremony) or **before** 1 December (for the March graduation ceremony) at the administrative officer of the disciplinary group concerned; or
 - hand in at least eight printed copies of the thesis either **before** 1 September (for the December graduation ceremony) or **before** 1 December (for the March graduation ceremony) at the administrative officer of the disciplinary group concerned.
 - The examination of the thesis is conducted in accordance with the Faculty's Guidelines for Administration and Supervision of Postgraduate Study.
 - For the technical requirements in respect of the appearance, duplication and binding of theses, see Part 1 (General) of the Calendar.
 - Also see Part 1 (General) of the Calendar for general regulations in respect of examiners for master's theses.

Programme Structure

To obtain the MTh degree, you can follow one of two options:

- You follow a structured option (also called the 889 option) and obtain the degree if you:
 - successfully complete four examination papers in your field of specialisation and one paper in each of the supplementary subjects; and
 - successfully defend an assignment in which especially the problem, the research hypothesis and methodology in respect of a particular theme are dealt with, before the Faculty; or
- You follow a thesis option (also called the 879 option) and obtain the degree if you:

- successfully complete two examination papers in your field of specialisation and a paper in one supplementary subject; and
- successfully defend a thesis before the Faculty.

Course of the Programme

- You register for the modules and assignment or thesis concerned at the administrative officer of the discipline group in which you wish to specialise.
- After registering for the programme, you will receive a policy document from the relevant discipline group containing clear guidelines concerning the respective responsibilities of the student and the supervisor, regular discussions, progress reports, examination procedures, assessment criteria for theses and other regulations as set out by the discipline group.
- Discipline groups annually report to the Faculty on the progress of students.
- You must take note of all fees and possible additional levies as specified in Part 3 (Student Fees) of the Calendar, or you must consult the Student Fees Division.

Licensing for the Ministry

If you wish to present yourself for licensing for the ministry of a specific denomination, you can, during your MTh study, complete the outstanding modules for the MDiv and or Postgraduate Programme in Theology in Christian Ministry to the satisfaction of the licensing body of the church concerned.

Programme Content

- The MTh structured option (also called the 889 option), as well as the MTh thesis option (also called the 879 option) can be followed in one of the following theological disciplines:
 - Ecclesiology
 - Missiology
 - New Testament
 - Old Testament
 - Practical Theology
 - Systematic Theology
- You may take supplementary subjects presented in departments in other faculties of this University.
- The specific modules that you follow in each of the theological disciplines are set out under the specific MTh structured programmes.