



ASSOCIATE DEGREE OF ARTS

AWARD SUMMARY

CRICOS: None

Nomenclature: AssocDegA

AQF Level 6 Associate Degree

Entry Requirements An Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 65, or its equivalent (e.g. OP \leq 16); OR Satisfactorily completed an Australian University College of Divinity Diploma of Arts, or its equivalent, from an institution recognised by the Academic Board; AND Satisfactorily completes a pre-enrolment interview with a relevant course advisor.

Duration: 1 year full-time or 3 years (maximum) part-time.

Attendance Type: Full-time, part-time.

Delivery Mode: Multi-modal

Structure: 72 credit points (8 units).

English Proficiency:

Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally requires a minimum IELTS (or equivalent) score of 6.0 in all bands of the test with no score less than 5.5 in all bands of the test.

Enrolment

Contact the Registrar of the Member Institution with whom you intend to study for enrolment and fee details.

Graduate Profile and Rationale

The Associate Degree of Arts prepares students to work in the multi-disciplinary environment of the humanities enriched by Christian heritage, theology, philosophy, and practice with a view to applying it in a range of contexts in human society. It also provides a pathway for further learning.

Graduates of the Associate Degree of Arts will have extensive transferable theological knowledge and skills to engage with areas of the humanities with a view to contemporary issues of human life together.

Course Outcomes

Knowledge

Graduates of the Associate Degree of Arts will have broad theoretical and technical knowledge of theological studies as applied to the humanities more broadly and to a specific focus area within the humanities.

Skills

Graduates of the Associate Degree of Arts will have a broad range of cognitive, technical and communication skills to select and apply methods and technologies to:

- theologically analyse information to complete a range of activities within the humanities;
- interpret and transmit Christian solutions to unpredictable and sometimes complex problems of human life and society;
- communicate information and skills to others with an impact upon issues of human life and society.

Applications of Knowledge and Skills

Graduates of the Associate Degree of Arts will apply knowledge and skills gained through the interaction of Christian heritage, theology, philosophy, and practice, and aspects of the humanities to demonstrate autonomy, judgement and defined responsibility:

- in human contexts that are subject to change;
- within broad parameters to provide specialist advice and functions within those contexts.

The learning outcomes of each Unit of Study will contribute to the attainment of the Course Outcomes and the Graduate Attributes, as specified in their Course Unit Outline.

Academic regulations for the Associate Degree of Arts

1 Admission to Candidature

1.1 An applicant for admission to candidature into the Award Name shall:

- 1.1.1 have an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 65, or its equivalent (e.g. OP \leq 16), OR
- 1.1.2 have satisfactorily completed the University College AQF 5 Diploma of Arts, or an equivalent diploma from the University College or an institution recognised by the Academic Board; AND
- 1.1.3 Satisfactorily completes a pre-enrolment interview with a relevant course advisor.

1.2 A candidate for the Associate Degree of Arts shall be designated as full-time or part-time.

1.3 No candidate for the Associate Degree of Arts may be concurrently enrolled in any other undergraduate or postgraduate course within the University College or any other tertiary institution unless approval has been granted by the Academic Board. Candidates for the Diploma may be enrolled in the final years of secondary education, if in an approved high school pathways program.

1.4 Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally will be required to demonstrate competency in English by:

- 1.4.1 achieving an IELTS (or equivalent) result of 6.0 with no score below 5.5 in all bands of the test.

1.5 Application for enrolment in the Associate Degree of Arts is made to the Registrar of the appropriate Member Institution offering the course.

2 Course Structure

2.1 The Associate Degree of Arts requires the completion of 72 credit points (8 units) which shall include:

- 2.1.1 One Compulsory Unit (9 credit points), to be selected from:
A6176 Faith Texts and Meaning
B6203 Biblical Hermeneutics
B6200 Biblical Theology: Method and Meaning.
- 2.1.2 9 credit points (one unit) in Christian Thought and Experience, selected from:
A6176 Faith Texts and Meaning
E6100 Christian Ethics
H6100 Introduction to Church History
S6102 Introduction to Christian Spirituality
T6210 Person and Work of Christ
T6216 Person and Work of the Holy Spirit
- 2.1.3 9 credit points (one unit) in Christian Communication,

selected from:

A6100 Critical Thinking and Writing in Theological Studies

A6111 Introduction to Biblical Languages

A6200 The Art of Persuasion, Ancient and Modern;

B6200 Biblical Theology: Method and Meaning.

- 2.1.4 an area of focus consisting of 18 credit points (two units) (from Schedule A below);
- 2.1.5 a further 27 credit points (three units) of elective units chosen from the University College approved units.

2.2 Course units shall normally be taken from the University College units coded within the 6100 series and above. All specified units may be substituted with the corresponding unit at AQF 7.

2.3 AQF 5 Units credited towards the Associate Degree of Arts may be used to satisfy the requirements of an Area of Focus.

3 Period of Candidature

3.1 The period of candidature for the Associate Degree of Arts shall normally be 1 year (2 Semesters) full- time and up to 3 years (6 Semesters) part-time.

3.2 In certain circumstances the Student Support and Administration Committee may grant extensions.

4 Leave of Absence

4.1 The Student Support and Administration Committee may grant leave of absence from the Associate Degree of Arts. The period of leave shall not be counted as part of the period of candidature for the award.

4.2 The period of leave shall normally be one semester after which a candidate may apply for a further period of one semester or will be required to complete candidature.

5 Assessment

5.1 The assessment of units shall be in the manner approved by the Academic Board in line with the University College's established guidelines for assessment packages.

5.2 Students may be required by the Academic Board to present themselves for oral examination.

5.3 Academic and non-academic misconduct will be penalised in accordance with the Policies and Regulations of the University College, whose stipulations are severe.

6 Credit

- 6.1 A candidate may seek credit up to a maximum of 36 credit points in the Associate Degree of Arts.
- 6.2 Credit will be granted for units that are from an equivalent award or institution and have outcomes, content, demand hours, and assessment equivalent to that of units in the Associate Degree of Arts.
- 6.3 Credit for non-University College units will not be granted towards Compulsory units or to complete the requirements of the Area of Focus.

7 Progress to Further Awards

- 7.1 Students who complete the Associate Degree of Arts and desire to undertake the Bachelor of Arts, or another University College Bachelor degree will receive direct credit for successfully completed AQF 7 units to equivalent Bachelor units, and for units at AQF 6 completed with a grade of Credit or higher; or subject to additional assessment requirements set by the University College Student Support and Administration Committee.

8 Saving Clause

- 8.1 Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Academic Board of the University College may, in any case in which it may deem it appropriate to do so, vary, dispense with, or suspend any requirement or prescription by these regulations, and report forthwith to the Council of the University College.

SCHEDULE A

The Associate Degree of Arts requires an 'Area of Focus'.

An Area of Focus consists of 2 units (18 credit points) which have a defined coherence. They may be from the same (sub)discipline, or interdisciplinary units that contribute to a field of study with a defined coherence.

For the Associate Degree of Arts, Units coded "A" may be included in an Area of Focus.

AQF 5 Units credited towards the Associate Degree may be used to satisfy the requirements of an Area of Focus.

Not all Areas of Focus are available at all Member Institutions. However, students may be able to complete a desired Area of Focus by completing units offered at another Member Institution.

Areas of Focus may vary from time to time, depending upon the offerings of the Member Institutions, or the interests of students.

Areas of Focus

The following Areas of Focus have been approved:

1. Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy
2. Event Management
3. Theological Studies (Bible and Theology)
4. Music and Worship
5. Visual Communication and Media

Other areas of Focus may be approved upon application to the Director of Academic Strategy, according to the following procedure:

- (i) Although student input should be welcomed, Member Institutes should determine the Areas of Focus according to their expertise and ability to deliver relevant units, given the various factors involved (staff levels; expertise; etc). However, present capacities should not be permitted to limit future possibilities too quickly. Different Member Institutes may adopt different Areas of Focus and develop expertise with them over time.
- (ii) The application should include:
 1. A rationale for the coherence and integrity of the Area of Focus, to assist registrars' determinations, guidance to students and faculty, etc.
 2. an overview of its contribution to the outcomes of the award and how this may be achieved in the student program; and
 3. an (indicative or actual) list of units to be included. This may also include suggestions for selection of (further) core and particular elective units in support of the award with such an Area of Focus.
- (iii) Once approved, the Director of Academic Strategy will table the Area of Focus at the Discipline Coordinators Committee and it will be added to the Award Regulations, Schedule A.

Area of Focus 1: Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy

Rationale:

The Pastoral Care and Chaplaincy focus equips students with both the theoretical knowledge
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and practical skills necessary for providing compassionate and effective care in a variety of contexts including especially as certified chaplains. This focus integrates foundational theological principles with the development of key pastoral and counselling skills, from a philosophy thoroughly informed by Christian teaching and heritage. This focus prepares students to engage deeply with individuals and communities, offering spiritual and emotional support in a variety of settings such as hospitals, schools, aged care facilities, and churches. By grounding practical care in sound theological and ethical reflection, the program ensures that students are not only capable caregivers but also reflective practitioners who can navigate the complexities of contemporary pastoral ministry and chaplaincy with confidence and sensitivity.

Area of Focus 2: Event Management

Rationale

The Event Management focus equips students with the strategic, organisational, and practical skills needed to plan, coordinate, and execute a wide range of events. The selected units offer a cohesive blend of theoretical frameworks and hands-on experience, covering areas such as project management, promotion and marketing, budgeting, and logistics. Students are trained to approach event management with creativity, attention to detail, and a focus on effective communication, all from a philosophy thoroughly informed by Christian teaching and heritage. This focus prepares graduates to manage events in diverse settings, including churches, community organisations, and corporate environments. By integrating the Christian, technical and interpersonal aspects of event planning, this focus ensures that students develop the skills needed to create meaningful and well-organised experiences in a wide variety of settings.

Area of Focus 3: Theological Studies (Bible and Theology)

Rationale

The Bible and Theology focus will offer an integrated approach to these two related disciplines. It will provide students with essential tools for biblical interpretation, while also encouraging theological reflection. The selected units complement one another, creating a cohesive learning experience that helps students engage critically and thoughtfully with foundational Christian texts, in order to appropriately engage with a variety of life-contexts. By promoting an integrative approach of both biblical study and theological exploration, the focus area ensures that students gain both intellectual depth and practical insight for application in ministry, leadership, and other areas of Christian service in the contemporary world.

The units that may be undertaken as part of this focus area are as follows:

Unit List

Any units with a B or a T code,
At least 9 credit points of biblical language units

Area of Focus 4: Music and Worship

Rationale

The Music focus fosters a deep understanding of the theory and practice of music, blending creative expression with technical proficiency in the context of music performance. The selected units provide a comprehensive foundation in areas such as music theory, performance, composition, and the historical and cultural contexts of musical traditions. Students are encouraged to develop their unique musical voice while engaging with the broader role of music in worship, community building, and cultural dialogue. This focus equips graduates with the skills to contribute meaningfully to various professional contexts, including

ministry, education, performance, and community arts initiatives, ensuring that their musical practice is both artistically excellent and socially impactful.

Area of Focus 5: Visual Communication and Media

Rationale

The Visual Communication and Media focus prepares students to engage effectively with contemporary visual and digital cultures through the development of creative, technical, and analytical skills. The selected units provide a cohesive foundation in areas such as graphic design, multimedia production, storytelling, videography and editing. Students are equipped with the tools and knowledge to create and produce visual media assets and narratives. This focus area empowers graduates to contribute thoughtfully and professionally to fields such as marketing, ministry, education, and community outreach, using visual and digital media to communicate ideas and values with clarity and impact.

Version	Date and Governance	Changes
1.0	6/5/2024 Academic Board	Approved
2.0	24/6/2024 Academic Board	Addition of Unit in Course Structure 2.1.1 A6176 Faith Texts and Meaning
3.0	03/02/2025 Academic Board	Addition of 2 new Areas of Focus; Credit provision 6.3 change not to allow compulsory unit credit from outside University College.