

DIPLOMA OF ARTS

AWARD SUMMARY

CRICOS: None

Nomenclature: DipA

AQF Level 5 Diploma

Entry Requirements An Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 65, or its equivalent (e.g. OP \leq 16); OR Satisfactorily completed Year 10 (or equivalent) from an institution recognised by the Academic Board; OR Special Entry Admission for those with evidence of capacity for successful study at this level; AND Satisfactorily completes a pre-enrolment interview with a relevant course advisor.

Duration: 1 year full-time or 4 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

Graduates of the Diploma of Arts will have introductory theological knowledge and

skills for reflective engagement with a focused area of human interest and/or further learning.

The graduate of the SCD Diploma of Arts will apply foundational concepts drawn from theological studies to a particular area of human endeavour in a broad range of life contexts.

The Diploma of Arts provides students with the opportunity to undertake introductory study in the humanities and traditional theological disciplines, in order to grasp a basic appreciation of the Christian heritage, theology, philosophy and practice in service of contemporary society. It also lays foundations for further learning.

Course Outcomes

Knowledge

Graduates will have:

introductory theoretical knowledge and concepts in Theological Studies, with a particular focus in one area of the humanities;

Skills

Graduates will have emerging cognitive, communication, and technical skills drawing upon the resources of Christian heritage, theology, philosophy, and practice so that they are able to:

- identify, reflect on, and bring aspects of the Christian heritage, theology, philosophy, and practice to bear upon one area of the humanities from a range of foundational sources;
- express ideas and perspectives related to Christian faith within one humanities-related area;
- communicate humanities-related knowledge, skills, and ideas, enriched by the Christian heritage, to others.

Applications of Knowledge and Skills

Graduates will have the emerging ability to:

- demonstrate an understanding of theological knowledge by applying it in human interest areas;
- engage theologically with issues in the humanities that have some complexity, taking personal responsibility for them.

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 Diploma of Arts

1 Admission to Candidature

- 1.1.1 An applicant for admission to candidature into the Diploma of Arts shall:
- 1.1.2 have an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 65, or its equivalent (e.g. OP \leq 16), OR
- 1.1.3 satisfactorily complete Year 10 (or equivalent) from an institution recognised by the Academic Board, OR
- 1.1.4 have adequate grounds for Special Entry with evidence of capacity for successful study at this level.

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

1.3 A candidate for a Diploma of Arts will be designated as full-time or part-time. A student is designated as full-time if enrolled in three units (27 credit points) or more in a semester or part-time if enrolled in less than three units (27 credit points) per semester.

1.4 Candidates for the Diploma may be enrolled in the final years of secondary education, if in an approved high school pathways program.

1.5 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:

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

1.6 Application for enrolment in the Diploma of Arts is made to the Registrar of the appropriate Member Institution offering the course.

2 Course Structure

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

- 2.1.1 One Compulsory 'Worldview' unit (9 credit points) selected from:
A5151 Christian Worldview; OR
T5101 Introduction to Theology (or T5105 Introduction to Christian Doctrine)
OR
B5104 Engaging the Biblical Drama.
- 2.1.2 9 credit points (one unit) in Biblical Studies, selected from:
B5100 Introduction to Reading Interpreting and Applying the Bible
B5101 Survey of the Bible
B5104 Engaging the Biblical Drama
B5110 Survey of the Old Testament
B5150 Introduction to New Testament.
- 2.1.3 9 credit points (one unit) in Theology, selected from:
T5101 Introduction to Theology
T5105 Introduction to Christian Doctrines
T5110 Person and Work of Christ
T5116 Person and Work of the Holy Spirit
T5140 Theology of Mission.
- 2.1.4 an area of focus consisting of 18 credit points (two units) (see Schedule A below);
- 2.1.5 a further 27 credit points (three units) chosen from the University College Schedule of approved units of study.

2.2 Course units shall normally be taken from University College units coded within the 5100 series but may also be taken from the 6100 or 7100–7299 series. All specified units may be substituted with the corresponding unit at AQF 6 or 7.

3 Period of Candidature

3.1 The period of candidature for the Diploma of Arts shall normally be 1 year full-time and up to 3 years part-time.

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

4 Leave of Absence

4.1 The Student Support and Administration Committee may grant leave of absence from the Diploma 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 Diploma 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 Diploma 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 Diploma of Arts and desire to undertake an AQF 6 or 7 award will receive direct credit to equivalent AQF 6 or 7 units for successfully completed units at the same AQF level, and for Diploma units at AQF 5 completed with a grade of Credit or higher; or subject to additional assessment requirements set by the SCD 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 Diploma 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 Diploma of Arts, Units coded "A" may be included in 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 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	Change to Course Structure 2.1.1
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.