

3. Master's Degrees

3.1 MDiv (486101) (NQF level 9)

Target Group

The MDiv in Church Ministry offers professional theological training to ministers, clergy, pastors, lay workers, pastoral care givers and pastoral therapists for the ministry.

Specific Admission Requirements

- A BDiv degree; or
- Another qualification that is judged by Senate to be equivalent to the content of the four-year BDiv programme, as well as the bible languages requirements regarding the current BDiv degree.

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

The duration of the MDiv programme is one year of full-time study.

Assessment and Examination

The assessment of the seven modules consists of formative assessment over the course of a module and summative assessment at the end of each module.

Programme Outcomes

After completion of this programme, you will:

- have the ability to articulate your own practical theological ecclesiology;
- be able to describe the role of the church in society;
- be able to do congregational analyses in different contexts and situations;
- have an understanding of theoretical insights regarding church history and church polity, systematic ecclesiology and symbolism, homiletics and liturgy, Christian spirituality and the identity of a Christian leader;
- have developed a number of ministry and communications skills with regard to preaching, pastorate, community development and missionary leadership;

- have pastoral care and crisis ministry skills; and
- be able to implement an ecosystemic ministry within a pastoral policy of preventing marital and family problems.

Programme Structure

- The first semester starts in the middle of January and runs for 21 weeks. The second semester runs for 15 weeks.
- The different subthemes under the main themes are presented by means of a block approach and the integration of various theological disciplines.
- For the purpose of this programme, a week starts on a Tuesday and ends on a Monday in order to include the weekend.
- In May-June all the candidates go on a compulsory combined ecumenical tour of approximately two weeks.

Programme Content

Compulsory Modules (credits = 180)

You must enrol for the following core modules at the beginning of the academic year:

Church and Society	871(15), 872(15)
Discipleship and Ministry Skills	871(20), 872(20)
Introduction	871(20)
Ministry and the Bible, history and tradition	871(15), 872(15)
Research Study	873(60)

The three main themes with their different subthemes are set out below:

- *Pathos aspects*
 - Church in society (contextuality): The role of the church in society within different contexts and ethical questions.
- *Logos aspects*
 - Church – history, systematic ecclesiology, Bible and worship (church identity): The nature and functions of the church; historical connections; church confessions and communication within the context of worship and liturgy.
- *Ethos aspects*
 - Discipleship, spirituality and ministry skills (ministry practice): The connection between Christian spirituality and leadership aimed at developing congregational spirituality within various forms of ministry. Faith maturity and faith formation: The development of ministry and pastoral skills with a view to pastoral care, solace, prevention and enrichment during various life crises and problems in personal relations.

The eight module contents under the main themes are set out below. The credits are indicated in brackets.

Module 1: Introduction

(credits = 20)

Christian leadership and edification of congregations	Leadership styles and edification of congregations
Practical theological ecclesiology	Introduction to practical theological interpretation
Research methodology	Basic research skills
Spirituality week	Christian spirituality and calling of the minister/Christian leader

PATHOS ASPECTS

Module 2: Church and Society 1 (Pathos)

(credits = 15)

Church in Africa	The issue of intercultural and interreligious communication
Church, society and market	The issue of poverty, unemployment, criminality, gang violence, street children
Ecumenics	Contemporary problems and developments
Ministry of reconciliation and justice	The theological nature of reconciliation and forgiveness
The church and public life	Moral decision-making and public policy in the private and public spheres

Module 3: Church and Society 2 (Pathos) (credits = 15)

Children's and youth culture	Tendencies in youth research and theological understanding of youth problems
Congregational studies and congregational analysis in African contexts	Synoptic context analysis of church and society
Gender, culture and the Bible in the life of the church	Investigation of the mutual relationship between gender and diverse cultural contexts

LOGOS ASPECTS

Module 4: Church in the Bible, history and tradition 1 (credits = 15)

Church polity and church governance	Theological foundations; methodology; principles and understanding of being a church and church governance
Figures from church history and ministry today	Integrated knowledge of important figures from church history and the history of theology
Pedagogics of the Bible	Hermeneutical impact of biblical pedagogics in congregational context
Remembrance, history and involvement with the past	A critical discussion of the importance of remembrance as access to the past

Module 5: Church in the Bible, history and tradition 2 (credits = 15)

Apologetics	Theology in conversation with science, culture and views of life
Symbolism	Confessions and confessional writings
Systematic ecclesiology	The doctrine of the church

ETHOS ASPECTS

Module 6: Discipleship and Ministry Skills 1 (credits = 20)

Homiletics	Preaching as mode of communication. Theory and practice
Liturgics	The theological nature and understanding of worship and the question of communication in a secularised society. Various ways and models of worship

Module 7: Discipleship and Ministry Skills 2 (credits = 20)

Children's ministry	Trends in youth research and theological understanding of youth issues
Pastoral care for the sick and hospital care	Hospital supervision
Preventative pastoral care	Marriage pastoral care and enrichment; family pastoral care and enrichment
Youth care and moral formation	The theological nature of youth work and moral education

Module 8: Research component (credits = 60)

- You must complete a research assignment of 50 pages during the programme in order to develop research skills.
- The due date for this research assignment is the last day of the fourth term.
- All MDiv assignments are examined by an internal, as well as an external examiner.
- Research may be carried out in any of the following six disciplines: Ecclesiology, Missiology, New Testament, Old Testament, Practical Theology and Systematic Theology.

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**