

Diploma in Christian Formation

Purpose

The Diploma in Christian Formation offers a basic diploma program in Christian formation for mature persons who want to learn the basic concepts of the bible, spirituality, church, culture, and Christian faith. The Diploma in Christian Formation is a four year program (96 credits) and is composed of Bible and Theology (8 classes), Theological Study Skills (4 classes), Formation (4 classes), and Practice (4 classes).

Learning Outcomes

It is expected that all students completing the Diploma in Christian Formation will

- 1) Grow as Christians by learning basic Christian faith and spirituality
- 2) Learn and apply the essence of basic biblical, theological, and cultural knowledge in order them to live out their life not only in churches but also in their ordinary lives.
- 3) Participate in the ministry of Christian communities in worships, educations, missions, and services.

Duration

The Diploma in Christian Formation requires the successful completion of 96 semester hours. Students can complete the Diploma in Christian Formation in four years with full-time study (12 hours per semester).

Curriculum

Bible & Theology (BT)	BT401	The Story of the Old Testament	4 Credits
	BT411	The Story of the New Testament	4 Credits
	BT421	The Story of Church History	4 Credits
	BT431	The Story of Systematic Theology	4 Credits
	BT412	Exploring the New Testament	4 Credits
	BT402	Exploring the Old Testament	4 Credits
	BT413	Encountering the New Testament	4 Credits
	BT403	Encountering the Old Testament	4 Credits
Theological Study Skills (TS)	TS401	Basic Theological Thinking	4 Credits
	TS411	Basic Theological Research	4 Credits
	TS421	Basic Theological Writing	4 Credits
	TS431	Basic Theological Presentation	4 Credits
Formation (FO)	FO401	Healing and Growth	4 Credits
	FO402	Elements of Spiritual Formation	4 Credits
	FO403	Christian Living	4 Credits
	FO404	Caring and Counseling	4 Credits
Practice (PA)	PA401	Church Music and Worship	4 Credits
	PA402	Practice of Worship and Praise	4 Credits
	PA411	How to Study Bible	4 Credits
	PA412	Intergenerational Communication	4 Credits
	PA421	Gospel and Culture	4 Credits
	PA422	History of Mission	4 Credits
	PA431	Leadership in Church	4 Credits
	PA432	Diaconal Ministry	4 Credits
			Total 96 Credits

Course Descriptions: Christian Formation (Diploma Level)

- **Bible & Theology (BT)**

BT401 The Story of the Old Testament

A survey of Old Testament people, places, and events, this course highlights the basic message and themes of the Old Testament books, their contribution to the mission of God, and their significance for Christian thought and practice.

BT411 The Story of the New Testament

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BT421 The Story of Church History

This course introduces a survey of church history from the early church to modern church history. Emphasis is given to major issues, events, and persons in church history.

BT431 The Story of Systematic Theology

This course introduces a survey of the doctrines of Revelation, the Triune God, Creation, Humanity/Sin, Christ, Spirit, Church/Salvation, and Consummation. The purpose of the course is for the learner to become biblically and theologically knowledgeable about the faith by which he or she lives in light of the breadth of Christian tradition.

BT412 Exploring the New Testament

This course is designed to provide an introductory survey of the major divisions of the New Testament such as the Gospels, Paul's Epistles, and general Epistles. This course examines proper backgrounds, theology, and messages of the books, introducing students to the foundational knowledge and tools needed for a lifetime of independent study of the Word of God.

BT402 Exploring the Old Testament

This course is designed to provide an introductory survey of the major divisions of the Old Testament such as the Pentateuch, History, Poetry, and Prophets. This course examines proper backgrounds, theology, and messages of the books, introducing students to the foundational knowledge and tools needed for a lifetime of independent study of the Word of God.

BT413 Encountering the New Testament

This course is designed to provide students with the content and teaching of a specific book of the New Testament such as Mark, Acts, Romans, and the Revelation. This course acquaints students with deeper knowledge and insights through studying a book in the NT in detail.

BT403 Encountering the Old Testament

This course is designed to provide students with the content and teaching of a specific book of the Old Testament such as Genesis, Psalm, Judges, and Daniel. This course acquaints students with deeper understanding and insights through studying a book in the OT in detail.

- **Theological Study Skills (TS)**

- **TS401 Basic Theological Thinking**

- This course examines some of biblical and theological questions and how to find answers to the questions. Students will gain basic skills of thinking theologically about the issues faced in everyday life experiences in this world as Christians (e.g. creation, sin, suffering, and theodicy).

- **TS411 Basic Theological Research**

- An overview of the basic approaches to research methods. Particular attention is given to the application of research in biblical and theological studies, including resource findings for students' assignments. The course will introduce hand-on experiences of how to utilize library and online resources in biblical and theological areas.

- **TS421 Basic Theological Writing**

- This course is designed to give basic training in the fundamentals of theological writing. The main emphasis is on giving students practice in organizing ideas into coherently structured and effective essays, using as a focal point their own unique experiences.

- **TS431 Basic Theological Presentation**

- This course is designed to provide students with learning from hands-on experiences basic skills in word processing, spreadsheets, and graphic presentation in the Windows environment (including MS word, Excel, and Powerpoint). Also emphasis is on giving students practice in communicating and making presentations effectively and logically.

- **Formation (FO)**

- **FO401 Healing and Growth**

- This course seeks to provide a relational engagement to understand the complexity of mutual healing and spiritual growth. Through the course each student, as a Christian, will examine how to externalize and embrace pain and struggle. Further, it will provide the opportunity to empower narratives of healing and growth for transforming the community.

- **FO402 Elements of Spiritual Formation**

- This course provides the introduction of personal and spiritual formation for Christian life and ministry. This course also involves the study of biblical understandings of spirituality, elements of spiritual formation, and the practice of disciplines conducive to mature Christian discipleship.

- **FO403 Christian Living**

- An exploration of how Christians can make and enact good, wise, and faithful ethical choices and develop moral character and community amid a complex world. This basic introduction to ethics aims to develop a systematic way of thinking about Christian morality, bringing biblically based convictions to bear on important moral problems.

- **FO404 Caring and Counseling**

- This course provides a basic level of understanding of human development & counseling theories in a Christian caregiving and counseling contexts. Students will gain basic caregiving skills such as listening and responding.

- **Practice (PA)**

PA401 Church Music and Worship

This course provides an introduction to the history of music and worship in Christian history. Emphasis is given to the history of secular and church music, the relationship between music and worship, and the history of worship in the Bible and Christianity examining important factors that have created changes in Christian worship.

PA402 Practice of Worship and Praise

This class will explore the theory and practice of worship and praise, focusing on its practice in church settings. Emphasis is given to how to serve, engage, lead, and organize worship and praise ministry in local churches.

PA411 How to Study the Bible

This course addresses how to study the Bible. In particular, it deals with how to do daily devotion, how to read the Bible, how to memorize Scripture verses, how to do a personal Bible study, how to participate in a group Bible study, and how to lead a Bible study.

PA412 Intergenerational Communication

This course will develop the student's understanding and skills for intergenerational communication in the terms characteristic of a different generation. It focuses on some of the major components that shape a person's world view and culture so the student learns and practices how to communicate effectively with different generations in immigrant contexts.

PA421 Gospel and Culture

This course explores living out the Gospel in ordinary life, which is challenging, exciting and foundational to Christian faith, and addressing appropriate ways for Christians to relate to their cultural surroundings. This course also asks the fundamental questions concerning how the Gospel engages with the realities of our world and is embodied in our ordinary life.

PA422 History of Mission

This course provides a survey of the historical progress of Christian mission from its inception to the present, from historical and missiological perspectives, exploring the ministry and life of key missionaries in Christian mission history.

PA431 Leadership in Church

This course provides Christian leadership theory and practice from biblical perspectives, focusing on lay leadership. It also explores the practice of leadership with a focus on giftedness, personality, and styles of leadership.

PA432 Diaconal Ministry

This course explores the impacts of urbanization, economic deprivation, and racism on the theory and practice of ministry in urban settings. Consideration is given to social engagement and the development of ministry of the local churches and organizations. Also emphasis is on giving students practice hands-on experience by visiting urban ministry such as homeless ministry.