

Program Catalog: Graduate Diploma in Christian Studies

1 Program Aims

Upon successful completion of the program, students should demonstrate:

- Knowledge and understanding of the Bible and Christian doctrine
- Competency in the interpretation and application of Scripture
- Appreciation of the Holy Spirit's work in history and in ministry
- Love for the church and its mission in fulfilling the Great Commission

2 Admission Requirements

The admission candidate should meet these criteria:

- The applicant must possess personal and spiritual maturity.
- The applicant must be willing to engage in Christian ministry.
- The applicant must be recommended by his/her local church.
- The applicant must possess a Bachelor degree from a recognized institution with a minimum GPA of 2.5.
- International applicants must have obtained a TOEFL score of 80 (IBT) / 550 (PBT) or an IELTS score of 6.5.
- Applicants who wish to study online must be comfortable with technology and online interaction. They should also have ready and reliable access to the internet.

3 Modes of Study

There are 2 modes of study:

Onsite students will study their courses in face-to-face classes. They may also choose to take some online courses. A full-time student will study 3-4 courses a term whereas a part-time student will study 1-2 courses a term. Students can expect to spend a total of 7-8 hours of study time each week for each course.

Online students will study all their courses online. Students will adhere to a study track assigned by the school and complete 2 courses a term. Students can expect to spend a total of 7-8 hours of study time each week for each course.

4 Program Duration

The program consists of 10 courses (30 credits).

- Onsite full-time students will complete the program in 1 year.
- Onsite part-time students must complete the program within 3 years.
- Online students should adhere to a study track and complete the program in 2 years.

5 Curriculum

Bible	9
Old Testament Foundations	3
New Testament Foundations	3
Hermeneutics	3
Theology	12
Systematic Theology 1	3
Systematic Theology 2	3
Systematic Theology 3	3
Pentecostal Studies	3
General & Ministry	9
Online Orientation	0
Theological Research and Writing	3
<i>Ministry Electives</i>	6
TOTAL	30

The electives currently available as online courses are

- Spiritual Formation and Christian Character
- Christian Discipleship

The course Theological Research & Writing is only offered in an online format. All students must start the program with this course.

6 Study Schedule

The School of Theology follows a trimester system with 3 terms in a year. Each term consists of 13 weeks. Students should check with the school for the exact dates for the school terms.

Term	Month
1	Jan – Mar
2	May – Jul
3	Sep – Nov

Students can be admitted into the program at the start of any school term.

6.1 Onsite Schedule

Students studying onsite should use the schedule below as a guide. These classes are taught in a face-to-face format. The school may schedule these courses during the day or in the evenings.

Term	Courses offered
1	Old Testament Foundations Systematic Theology 1 <i>Ministry Elective</i>
2	New Testament Foundations Systematic Theology 2 Pentecostal Studies
3	Hermeneutics Systematic Theology 3 <i>Ministry Elective</i>
<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must start the program with the online course Theological Research and Writing. • The School may change the schedule of classes offered at any time without prior notice. Students should always refer to the respective Term Brochure. 	

Full-time students must take all courses listed in each respective term. Part-time students should aim to take 2 courses each term and complete the program within 2 years. Onsite courses are usually rotated so that they are offered in the evenings on alternate years.

Onsite students have the option of taking some online courses. They should seek academic advice to receive guidance on the selection of their courses.

6.2 Online Schedule

The school plans to offer online courses according to the following schedule.

Term	Courses offered
1	Theological Research and Writing Hermeneutics Systematic Theology 3 Christian Discipleship
2	Theological Research and Writing Old Testament Foundations Systematic Theology 1 Spiritual Formation and Christian Character
3	Theological Research and Writing New Testament Foundations Systematic Theology 2 Pentecostal Studies
<p>Note:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Students must start the program with the online course Theological Research & Writing. • The School may change the schedule of classes offered at any time without prior notice. Students should always refer to the respective Term Brochure. 	

Students studying all their courses online will be placed on a study track based on the term in which they begin their program. They will study 2 courses a term and complete the program in 2 years. A sample track is shown below.

Track for students starting the program in Term 2 (Sample only)

Term	Calendar Year 1	Calendar Year 2	Calendar Year 3
1		Hermeneutics Christian Discipleship	Systematic Theology 3
2	Theological Research and Writing Old Testament Foundations	Systematic Theology 1 Spiritual Formation and Christian Character	
3	NT Foundations Pentecostal Studies	Systematic Theology 2	

We stress that online students must adhere to their assigned track to pace their studies and complete the program within the program duration.

7 Learning Activities

7.1 Onsite Courses

Most courses are taught in 3-hour classroom sessions held once a week. Several learning activities take place during the class time. These may include lectures, small-group discussions, project work, and student presentations. Students will also need to complete weekly readings and research outside the classroom time. A general guide is that students should spend 4-5 hours of self-study outside classroom time. Each 3-credit course consists of 100 hours of learning spread over the entire term.

7.2 Online Courses

Students taking online courses must be independent learners who are disciplined and proactive. Students are required to engage in a variety of learning activities every week. Some of these activities are described below.

- Self-study** Students will complete assigned readings from textbooks, journal articles, and other material. They may also watch some videos or listen to audio recordings.
- Worksheets** Worksheets are used to assess and reinforce material which a student has read. These worksheets are usually not timed and the student may refer back to his readings to answer the questions.
- Forums** The course instructor will pose questions and students will have to post their responses in a forum. They are also required to comment and interact with forum posts made by their classmates.
- Journals** Journals may be used for students to critically reflect on their learning.
- Assignments** Students should devote time each week to research and work on their term papers and other assignments.

Learning activities should be completed and submitted before activity deadlines every week. Many of these activities are graded and they will contribute to the student's final mark.

Students can expect to spend 7-8 hours each week on these learning activities. They should plan their week in advance and schedule sufficient time for their studies. Each 3-credit course consists of 100 hours of learning spread over the entire term.

8 Methods of Assessment

A variety of assessments are utilized for the program. Some common assessments are listed in the table below. Students should refer to the course syllabi for more details.

Onsite Courses	Online Courses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term papers • Examinations • Book and article reviews • Class presentations • Projects 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Term papers • Worksheets • Book and article reviews • Forum discussions • Blog posts and journals

9 Learning Resources

Students will need to purchase the course textbooks on their own. They may wish to purchase physical copies at a local retail store or through an online bookstore. They may also purchase the textbooks in an e-book format. The School does not facilitate the purchase of textbooks. Some possible bookstores are shown below.

Online Bookstores	Types
Amazon (www.amazon.com)	Hardcopy and e-book
Christianbook.com (www.christianbook.com)	Hardcopy and e-book
Book depository (www.bookdepository.com)	Hardcopy
Kobo (www.kobo.com)	E-book
LOGOS (www.logos.com)	Bible software and e-book

Bookstores in Singapore
SKS Books Warehouse (www.sksbooks.com)
Cru Singapore Media Ministry (www.media.cru.org.sg)

All students can make use of the online learning resources provided by TCA College. This includes an e-book collection and an electronic database with access to a substantial number of academic journals. In addition, students may wish to explore access to electronic resources at their local library. For example, the Singapore National Library has a large number of electronic resources which are readily available to its members.

Students with access to the campus library at TCA College can make use of the resources there. Online students in other countries may wish to explore access to theological libraries in their country.

10 Frequently Asked Questions

General

Q: What is the difference between an onsite course and an online course?

A: The learning objectives of a course remains the same regardless of whether it is taught onsite or online. However, the mode of study will determine the way in which learning is facilitated.

Q: Will the school help me purchase textbooks?

A: Students are responsible for purchasing their own textbooks. You will need to get your textbooks before the course begins.

Q: Must I purchase the textbooks? Will I be able to borrow them from the library?

A: Students must purchase all textbooks for their courses. Lessons closely follow the textbook content and readings will be assigned from them. Library copies are kept as course reserve and will not be available for loan.

Q: Can the credits earned from the GDCS count toward a Master degree?

A: Yes, all credits earned from the GDCS can be transferred to a Master degree under the School of Theology (English).

Q: Can I transfer credits from another school into the GDCS program?

A: The School will evaluate requests for credit-transfer on a case-by-case basis. In addition, only one-third of the program can consist of transferred credits.

Q: I already have a Bachelor of Theology. Is the GDCS suitable for me?

A: The GDCS is meant for students who do not have a first degree in theology. You may wish to consider the Master degree programs available at TCA College.

Studying onsite

Q: I am an onsite student. Can I take some online courses?

A: Onsite students are permitted to take some online courses. You should seek academic advice before doing so.

Q: What ministry electives are available for onsite students?

A: The school offers various electives each term. Onsite students should refer to the relevant term brochure and attend academic advising sessions for more information.

Q: What is the study workload for an onsite course?

A: Onsite courses are taught in 3-hour classroom sessions held once a week. In addition, you can expect to spend 4-5 hours of self-study per week for each course. This means a total of 7-8 hours per week per course.

Q: What happens if I cannot attend a class?

A: You can find more information on our attendance policies in the Student Handbook. In general, a student must maintain an attendance of 80%.

Studying online

Q: I do not reside in Singapore. Can I take the program as a fully online student?

A: Yes, our program is suitable for students who reside overseas.

Q: I wish to take an online course. Will I have to come to campus?

A: No, you do not need to come to campus for classes. You will have access to online resources through our library. However, you may also wish to make use of the College library for other resources.

Q: Are the online classes simply watching a series of video lectures?

A: No, our online classes are not driven by video lectures. You will be assigned material which you have to read and understand. You will then engage in learning activities such as worksheets, forums, journals and wikis.

Q: As an online student, how many courses am I permitted to study each term? How long will I take to complete the program?

A: An online student will take 2 courses each term and finish the program in 2 years. The maximum duration for the program is 3 years.

Q: What ministry electives are available for online students?

A: Online students will take Spiritual Formation & Christian Character and Christian Discipleship as their ministry electives.

Q: What is the study workload for an online course?

A: You can expect to spend 7-8 hours each week on online learning activities. You should plan your week in advance and schedule sufficient time for your studies.

11 More information

Please contact us if you need more information about studying at TCA College.

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