



**MORLING
COLLEGE**

**ACCREDITATION FORMATION
REQUIREMENTS
FEBRUARY 2021**

Preliminary Details



ACCREDITATION TRAINING: GENERAL PRINCIPLES

During the candidacy period, a candidate will be required to complete ministry training at the Baptist Association's training college, Morling College; in addition to any other completed theological studies. Morling training guidelines align and operate in accordance with the decision of the Baptist Churches of NSW/ACT Accreditation Guidelines, approved at the Baptist Assembly in May 2015. This means that these training guidelines align to requirements for Accreditation set down by the Baptist Assembly and are unable to be changed without Assembly approval.

***Note**, that Baptist Accreditation guidelines are currently under review and a revision to processes is being planned to be presented to the Baptist Assembly of churches in 2022 for their decision.*

Steps to Accreditation

It is highly recommended that students apply as early as possible to become an Accreditation candidate so that the best tailored formation pathway can be achieved as early as possible in their studies. See the steps to accreditation and answers to common questions here: <https://www.morling.edu.au/accreditation-and-pastoral-training/>

Individualised study plan for Accreditation

The Baptist association does not believe in a 'cookie cutter' approach to ministry development where everyone is formed through the same processes. This means that there can be variance in the study program of individuals. As a result a group consisting of representatives of the Committee for the Ministry, Ministry Support & Development, and Morling College will work alongside the candidate to ensure that an individualised ministry and leadership development plan is in place. This tailoring will align with key learning areas: character, call, doctrine, capacity, competence, training and capability (see Appendix 9 of the Baptist Churches NSW/ACT Accreditation Guidelines, 2015).

The plan may reflect deficits from pre-existing studies, or issues identified by the Committee for the Ministry requiring special focus by the candidate.

The student's ministry context, geographical location, and ministry formation will be taken into account when this plan is constructed. Therefore, in consultation with Morling College and Ministry Support & Development (and with the written approval of the Principal of Morling College or his delegate), the candidate may elect to complete their studies: (1) as a residential / on-campus student of the College with live streaming available, or (2) through an approved local 'provider' (such as Greater West for Christ), or (3) via a combination of Online (distance), live streaming, and on-site programmes.

Students who have not yet been accepted as an Accreditation candidate and desire to pursue Accreditation studies can use these guidelines as part of designing a study program. However, it is still important to speak with the Accreditation Adviser on any matter to do with Baptist Accreditation enquiries@morlig.edu.au.

Involvement in Pastoral Ministry

All students who are accepted candidates would normally engage in pastoral ministry work in consultation with the Associate Director – Pastoral Development and the Principal of Morling College (or nominee),



until the 1 February after accreditation. “Pastoral ministry work” includes: pastoral charge, associate pastoral responsibility, or other approved ministry settings.

Typical Accreditation Pathways

Morling Graduates (& other approved Baptist colleges)	Undergraduate/ Graduate Award	+	5 Ministry Preparation Units	+	3 post-accreditation professional development Units
	Ministerial, psychological and theological formation designed by the Committee for the Ministry, Ministry Support & Development, and the College				

Graduates of Non- Baptist Colleges	Recognised Undergraduate/ Graduate Award	+	9 Ministry Preparation Units	+	3 post-accreditation professional development Units
	Ministerial, psychological and theological formation designed by the Committee for the Ministry, Ministry Support & Development, and the College				



GUIDELINES FOR MORLING GRADUATES AND APPLICANTS FROM OTHER THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTIONS

Once a student is accepted as an accreditation candidate, they will meet with a panel of representatives from the Baptist Association, Morling College, and the Committee for the Ministry, to discuss the unique shape of their study program. This study program will be reviewed annually with a representative from Morling College and the Baptist Association to ensure continued relevancy and accountability towards completion.

Typical Study Pathway towards Accreditation

A typical Study Pathway towards Accreditation requires a total of thirty-two Units. For students studying in fulltime mode this equates to 8 semesters of study. This includes Units completed as professional development after a candidate has been formally Accredited; with the final three being completed as professional development.

During this time students will work with the College, Baptist Association, and Committee for the Ministry on their ministerial, psychological, and theological, development (including more intentional psychological preparation for ministry).

1. Complete a Diploma, Undergraduate or Graduate Theological Award (Degree)

Morling graduates will complete diplomas (typically 24 Units), or an undergraduate or graduate Award (typically 24 Units) of carefully crafted Bible, theology, and practical and pastoral Units. Students must take care to complete the appropriate Units for their chosen Award as well as Units that will form part of their Accreditation study plan.

2. Complete further studies in Ministry Preparation for Accreditation

Accreditation Candidates are also required to complete a further five Units in Ministry Preparation in their accreditation year in an appropriate additional Award such as a double advanced diploma, double degree, Graduate Diploma, Post-graduate or other effective Award pathway. Applicants from Colleges other than Morling with three-year equivalent Awards will be required to complete a further nine Units. A panel composed of representatives of Morling, Baptist Association, and the Committee for the Ministry in conversation with the student, will determine the shape and content of these Units once accepted as an Accreditation candidate

3. Continuation of Post-Accreditation Professional Development

Once a candidate has successfully completed their Undergraduate or Graduate Theological Award *and* their further Accreditation study plan they are able to:

- i. Proceed to accreditation, and
- ii. Commit to the Association via the Committee for the Ministry, to complete three additional Units as part of post-accreditation professional development (if not already completed). The time limit for completion of the final three Units will be in the first three years following accreditation.

Completing Honours or Double Degrees

Students completing Research awards to satisfy accreditation requirements should talk with the Accreditation Adviser to discuss their study plan and to explore how Ministry Preparation Units may best form part of their study program.



Failure to complete post-accreditation subjects in the prescribed period could result in removal from the List of Accredited Ministers by the Committee for the Ministry.

Typical Accreditation Pathways

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	Ministerial, psychological and theological formation designed by the Committee for the Ministry, Ministry Support & Development, and the College				

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People seeking Baptist Accreditation need to be aware that the application process into Accreditation is a separate process in becoming an Accredited Baptist minister. Ensure that you proceed through the processes of Accreditation at the earliest stage possible so as to ensure expediency in becoming accredited alongside study requirement processes. Refer to the College web-site under Accreditation and Pastoral Training for further details.

<https://www.morling.edu.au/accreditation-and-pastoral-training/>



MORLING ACCREDITATION PROCESSES: DETAILED REQUIREMENTS AND EXPECTATIONS

Introduction

Although it is recognized that there is flexibility in the pathway that a person has chosen in their diploma, undergraduate, graduate &/or post-graduate pathway of studies, it would be required that certain areas of formation are apparent in the overall training of a person seeking Accreditation as described in 7.9 Appendix 9: *Seven Dimensions and Morling Alignment* of the Accreditation Guidelines. These dimensions are most often ascertained through successful completion of various study Units completed at Morling College, or other reputable Bible Colleges. These fulfilments are evidenced through provision of transcripts and/or some form of Recognised Prior Learning (RPL).

When a student wants to complete their Accreditation year of studies, it is important that a student first determines what level of study that they desire to complete Units. There are options at all levels from Diploma, Undergraduate, Graduate or Postgraduate, or a mixture of these levels. This is why it is important to meet with the Accreditation Adviser **prior** to commencing Accreditation studies so that an appropriate pathway can be determined by the student, whilst considering the various options available and any possible RPL.

The areas of dimension are most often demonstrated through successful study Units. However, if a student is able to demonstrate successful formation in a particular aspect in some alternative manner this will be considered. For instance, a student who has undertaken an intense Leadership program with forms of assessment may be accepted as an alternative means of demonstrating leadership competency; or a student who has engaged in continued expositional preaching in a pastoral context may demonstrate competency of preaching through another means like provision of one of their sermon pod casts and a written reflection.

Annual Review of Progress

Accepted Accreditation candidates will meet with representatives from the College, Baptist Association, and the Committee for the Ministry annually as a review of progress. At this meeting students will be required to present in writing their updated Study Plan of Completion for their remaining Accreditation units and demonstrate that they are working towards meeting all requirements. It is the student's responsibility to determine how they will fit study units into relevant ACTh awards and when units are

Studying On campus, Online or in Intensive Mode

Many of the Units required for Accreditation are available both in On campus and Online modes, and some are completed through Intensives, Semi-intensives and Blended learning. Candidates should check the current Courses and Units Guide to see when and how Units are offered.

Students seeking Accreditation will need to plan to attend on-campus at some stage through their Accreditation studies so that faculty get to know candidates. This will assist candidates with final Accreditation interviews so that they can move successfully to Accreditation.



offered by the College so that they can be completed prior to final Accreditation interviews are undertaken.

Changing or reducing Accreditation Study Requirements

Overall, a student's journey through Accreditation will vary between students but the 32 Units will be

Students should talk to the Accreditation Adviser or their Course Adviser to plan ahead for Accreditation studies.

Students are required to discuss study options with the Accreditation Adviser if attending On-campus Units will be not be possible *at any stage of their study.*

expected in most cases for a candidate's pathway in their preparation and continuing Accreditation process. For any discussions surrounding seeking an initial reduction in these requirements; changes to already agreed study programs; realignment for changing circumstances; or to gain clarity surrounding a student's Accreditation process, it is essential that they talk with the Accreditation Adviser. Any negotiated changes to previously agreed Accreditation study programs or reductions in requirements will need to be ratified by Morling College, the Baptist Association, and Committee for the Ministry representatives. A student who desires to make

a case for changes in their previously agreed accreditation study program will need to do this in writing to the Accreditation Adviser. The Accreditation Adviser will liaise with the Baptist Association, and Committee for the Ministry representatives prior to Principal's (or their representative) approval.

It will be the student's responsibility to ensure that all Accreditation requirements are formulated into relevant and appropriate accredited awards. Internal options are not available unless extremes exceptions exist in the student's study program. Discuss this with the Accreditation Adviser and/or Registrar, if necessary.

Final Comments

Accreditation formation may seem onerous and pervasive to complete alongside ministry, with many candidates struggling with the study, ministry, life and family balance. These challenges are normal and are seen as a preparatory exercise for future effectiveness, resilience and sustainability in Baptist ministry. It is this time of formalised study which presents Candidates with opportunity to trust in Jesus and rely upon God's Holy Spirit to accomplish the tasks before them. It is the very dependency upon God, not our own strength, which will become an example of faith and trust that can inspire others in the future as well. The cost of not fulfilling requirements is costly financially, and on people's lives (personal, families, and various community groups). So it is encouraged that students see these researched based accreditation requirements, as preparation for accredited Baptist ministry. They aim to be part of increasing your ministry effectiveness, create a thriving ministry experience, and develop sustainability and resilience for ministry.