

FORMATION FACT SHEET



The main focus of formation for ordained ministry is the process of integrating our worship, study, experience, and practice. The formation program for specified ministries at United Theological College is oriented around three guiding principles:

- 1. Every candidate has an individual program, designed for her or his formation in light of the UCA requirements and the candidate's own growth and development.*
- 2. From the moment they enter the program, each candidate is challenged to see and act in every situation from the perspective of being an ordained minister.*
- 3. The college environment in all its aspects is best viewed as a learning laboratory in which there are discoveries to be made through engagement and participation on the academic, personal, ministerial, formational, cultural, critical, and transformational levels.*

Ten Facts on Formation

1. Formation for the specified ministries of Deacon and Word includes academic study, short courses, and participation in a number of communities.
2. Formation in the NSW ACT Synod can be up to a period of 3 years as discerned by the Committee of Ministerial Formation (CMF) through progress for ministry Interviews. Progress for ministry interviews are annual conversations concerning a candidate's readiness for ministry.
3. A number of persons give time to the Formation Program. These are Mentors, Field Educators, Faculty Advisors, Presbytery Liaison People, Supervisors, the CMF, and the Dean of Formation.
4. Spiritual Growth is an ongoing personal goal. In 2016 candidates are being introduced to a number of spiritual practices and asked to hold one practice for a semester.
5. The academic program is offered by the college through its Charles Sturt University (CSU) partnership. Units for the required Bachelor of Theology are agreed to through the theological faculty of CSU.
6. Field education placements are varied. They include congregations, institutions, Uniting facilities, and ecumenical options. These placements sit alongside the academic study and short courses. It is expected that candidates spend 400 hours in field education per year.
7. During academic sessions there is one community day per week (Wednesday) normally spent at the North Parramatta site. This includes worship, integration, community building, pastoral support groups, and communal meals, and a focus on leadership and community development.
8. The focus on leadership and community development is woven around two immersion visits per year.
9. The Assembly Ministry Education Commission (MEC) set the standards for Specified Ministry formation in 2010. These are being revised and updated by the Assembly Education for Ministry Working Group (E4M), which has replaced the MEC.
10. Each Synod has different contextual requirements. Our candidates learn some basic Tongan and Korean so that they can lead a call to worship, blessing, and the Lord's Prayer in a second language. All candidates participate in a cross-cultural subject—The Practice of Cross Cultural Ministry in Australia.

See more on the formation program at United Theological College website utc.edu.au/formation

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