

DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY

THE DEPARTMENT OF THEOLOGY of Morning Star College is affiliated to the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical Institute of Philosophy and Religion, Jnana Deepa Vidyapeeth, Pune. The Department offers an academic curriculum that is comprehensive and contemporary, relevant and meaningful to the needs of the Church, society and academy. The programme of studies includes a wide range of courses in Sacred Scripture, Systematic, Moral, Sacramental, Historical, Pastoral and Spiritual Theology, Canon Law, Liturgy, Homiletics, World religions, Theology of Religious Pluralism, Ecumenism, Sociology of Religion and Ecology. There are also a number of Optional courses, Seminars and Exposure programmes. All the disciplines are designed to make theological education a scientific learning for creative and critical reflection and pastoral action.

1. Bachelor of Theology (B.Th.) Course

1.1. Admission Requirements

1.1.1. Clerical Students

- (a) A Bachelor's Degree or its equivalent from a recognised institution
- (b) Successful completion of a seminary course in Philosophy from a recognised institution
- (c) Proficiency in English

1.1.2. Non-Clerical Students

- (a) A Bachelor's Degree or its equivalent from a recognised institution
- (b) A course in Philosophy comprising of at least 36 credits
- (c) Proficiency in English

1.2. Duration and Content

The B.Th. programme for clerical students, which includes the Pastoral programme, covers four years during which a student is expected to obtain 122 credits. Of these 122 credits, 108 are to be taken from the Basic Courses offered for each year of the four-year course and 14 credits are to be taken from the Optional Courses and Seminars. The course content and details are given below. All courses and exposure programmes are credited except the Pastoral and Personality development programmes. A credit is a unit of study equivalent to 15 lecture hours and the corresponding hours of personal work (30 hours in all).

Students who are not candidates for the priesthood have to complete only 114 credits: 94 credits for Basic Courses and 20 Credits for Optional Courses and Seminars. This is to be done in consultation with the Dean.

All courses are completed in the third year. The third year clerical students appear for *AdAudiendas* in the first week of February on the dates marked in the *Handbook&Calendar*. All the students registered for B.Th. Degree, submit their B.Th. theses by the end of March, the details of which are given below. In the fourth year, July and August are assigned to prepare for the B.Th. Comprehensive Examination, which is held in the last week of August on dates marked in the Calendar. This is followed by the Pastoral course (a three month module), which is not obligatory for non-clerical students. The entire B.Th. programme is completed by the second week of December.

2. Diploma Course

Those who do not have a Bachelor's degree may be given admission to the programme of theological studies. The diploma course students follow the complete course of Theology without seeking academic degrees.

2.1. Two-Year Diploma Course: 2.1.1 Admission Requirements

- (a) Pre-University (10+2) certificate or its equivalent
- (b) Adequate knowledge of English

3. One-Year Certificate Course in Theology:

3.1. Admission Requirements

- (a) Matriculation or its equivalent
- (b) Adequate knowledge of English

It goes without saying that the B.Th., Diploma and Certificate courses are open to clerical and non-clerical students, who meet the requirements. Admission form/s (which can be obtained from the office any time of the year except holidays), duly filled in, along with required documents, must reach the Rector/ Office by January 15.

3.2. Certificate Course in Theology for Laity (CCT)

The Certificate Course in Theology (CCT) is a unique study programme having its own specific thrust and emphasis, offered primarily for the laity. However, it is open to anyone who wishes to attend irrespective of one's state of life or religious affiliation. This course, consisting of 36 credits, is given every Saturday evening in the Archbishop's House campus, Kolkata.

Admission requirements: Matriculation or its equivalent and adequate knowledge in English.

Course objectives: To equip the laity with adequate theological knowledge to form them lay leaders to guide and animate the faithful for the celebration of the liturgy, Bible sharing groups, SCC meetings, and to teach catechism in schools.

4. Evaluation system

All credit-courses are evaluated with marks. Based on Trimester system, examinations are held thrice in a year at the end of each term on the dates indicated in the Handbook & Calendar. Approximately, each term consists of three months. All courses having the value of 2 or more credits require the students to submit written assignments carrying 40 marks, besides a 2 hour written or 10 minutes oral examination of 60 marks. In consultation with the Dean, Professors are free to follow multiple evaluation system. The examiners are obliged to submit the results of the terminal examinations to the Dean not later than 30 days of the examinations.

4.1. B.Th. Thesis

As referred in section 1.2, the third year students of B.Th. write a research paper (B.Th. Essay) of 8000 – 10,000 words on a theological subject under the guidance of a professor. It should be written on A 4 size paper with 1.5 space. 3 credits are assigned to it. The thesis Guide shall be a member of the Theology teaching staff of Morning Star College. The Dean is to be informed in writing, of the B.Th. thesis and of the Guide who directs it.

4.2. Pastoral and Moral Comprehensive Examination

The third year B.Th. students will sit for a Pastoral and Moral Comprehensive Examination (*AdAudiendas*) on the dates marked in the calendar. It is conducted by a board of 3 examiners for 30 minutes (each examiner gets 10 minutes) in which a student is examined on his knowledge of morals, canon law, correct pastoral approaches to contemporary problems of Christian living and proper skills in the administration of the sacraments.

4.3. Comprehensive Examination

The comprehensive examination is conducted by a board of 3 professors, each getting 20 minutes to examine the student. In computing the marks, 40% is taken from the average of the marks obtained by the candidate in the four-year programme and 60% from the oral comprehensive examination. Only those who score 55% of the aggregate marks of all the examinations will be eligible to sit for the B.Th. comprehensive examination. Those who do not score the required 55% will sit for the comprehensive examination along with others, but they will be awarded Diploma certificates.

4.4. Grading System

Marks	Division	Letter Grade	Grade Point	Notes
90 -100	High Distinction	A Plus	4	Outstanding
80 - 89	Distinction	A	3.5	Very Good
70 - 79	High First Class	B Plus	3	Good
60 - 69	First Class	B	2.5	Above Average
50 - 59	Second Class	C Plus	2	Average
40 - 49	Pass	C	1.5	Below Average
00 - 39	Fail	D	1	Fail

4.5. Repetitions

A student who fails in an examination is obliged to repeat and pass in the examination. The re-examination is to be done in the subsequent terminal examination dates, in consultation with the Dean. A student is allowed to repeat an examination only once. If a student fails to do the repetition within the stipulated time, he / she forfeits his / her right to do the same. Repetitions of the previous year are to be completed during the dates allotted to the first terminal examination of the following year. Two repetitions are allowed for Pastoral and Moral Comprehensive Examination.

5. Promotion Policy

A student who fails in 5 or more subjects in a year must repeat that year.

6. Disciplinary Action

Stringent disciplinary action will be taken against students who have recourse to cheating in examination or malpractices in written assignments. For the following offences a student can be expelled from MSRS: copying during examination from another student or from written material brought into the examination hall; using books with hand-written notes in margins; plagiarism in dissertations/assignments/papers; recycling of old papers/assignments; cutting and pasting materials; tampering with the matter or marks on answer scripts/assignments returned to the student. The decision of the teaching staff, which will be communicated by the Rector, is final in these disciplinary matters.

7. Students' Council

The Students' Council is an advisory body (not a decision-making one), which has its aim and function to facilitate responsible involvement and meaningful participation of students in academic matters and foster constructive dialogue between staff and students. The president and the secretary of the council (and a representative from each class, if so desired) will represent the students' body in the Theology department (staff) meeting, as and when required (cf. Statutes, II & IV).