

MANUAL OF ABTA

I. Manual Outline:

1. Name of the board shall be called: Association of Baptist Theological Accreditation (ABTA)
2. **Institutes:** A Bible college who are willing to contribute and agree with the Statements of Faith of the **ABTA**.
3. **Requirements:** Any institute seeking affiliation or accreditation must be an established institute with minimum enrolments and duly fillup the application form for accreditation.
4. **One Time Registration:** An institute must pay a sum of Rs. 7000 /- (seven thousand only) for affiliation/accreditation with **ABTA** as prescribe by the authority.
5. **Senate Examination fee** of Rs.100/- per subject must be paid one month before examination. Senate examinations will be for the final year students of any degrees. This senate papers will be on three subjects:
 - **Systematic Theology**
 - **Baptist Distinctives**
 - **Missions/Missiological Studies**
6. **Library:** The applicant institute must have books in their library.
 - 5000 titles for B.Th. levels.
 - 7000 titles for M.Div. levels.
 - 10000 titles for M.Th. levels
 - 15000 titles for Doctorate levels.

However, the authority of the concern institutions must be capable of providing the study materials. The accrediting board will honour the effort.

Learning and formation:

The theological colleges are communities of faith with learning and formation of the students. A consistent emphasis on their missions and visions are paramount. The theological colleges must provide their religious identities and give appropriate attention to the intellectual, human, spiritual, and vocational dimensions of students learning and formation. The theological colleges must pay attention to the academic rigor, intercultural competency, global awareness and engagement for lifelong learning through appropriate educational modalities and policies.

The colleges must demonstrate their courses leading to a degree with substantive interaction between qualified instructors and students and among students, regardless of modality.

7. Major Programs for accreditation:

- Diploma: Dip. Th. (Diploma in Theology)
- Bachelor: B.Th./BRE
- Master Levels: M.Div./MRE./M.A.B.S/M.Th./M.MISS
- Post Graduate Diploma in Leadership/Counseling/Missions
- Post Graduate Levels: Ph.D./D.Min./D.MISS
- Doctor of Divinity Honorary to be awarded to the most deserving candidates

8. Recruiting of faculty:

The ABTA encourage the accreditate institutes to recruit their teaching staff who holds degrees from ABTA colleges/seminaries.

I. Diploma to Bachelor Levels of studies: Dip.Th. & B.Th.

The colleges that are offering the diploma of theology and bachelor of theology appropriate to their missions and capacities that meet all applicable degree program requirements must demonstrate the followings:

1. The college offering the diploma in theology and bachelor of theology degree must meet a minimum of 72 to 110 total credits as required.
2. The diploma of theology and bachelor of theology degree prepares for religious leadership and services, therefore the colleges must offer with appropriate curriculums and study materials with consistent interactions and evaluations.
3. The diploma of theology and bachelor of theology degrees are broadly and deeply attentive to the intellectual, human, spiritual, and vocational dimensions of student learning and formation in ways of consistent with the college's mission and theological commitments.
4. The diploma of theology and bachelor of theology degrees are required with appropriate supervision and practical guidances greater experiences. Therefore, proper and adequate attention must be made available to the students.

5. Eligibility for the Diploma in Theology: Dip. Th.

- Class 10th Passed
- Duration: Two Years in theological studies with four semesters or 72 credit hours.

6. Eligibility for the Bachelor of Theology or BRE.

- Class 12th Passed or Dip. Th. with two years/72 credit hours
- Three Years in theological studies with six semesters or minimum of 110 credit hrs.

7. Faculty: Minimum of M. Div.

8. Basic Courses leading to The Dip. Th. and B.Th. degrees

- Biblical Studies of both O.T & N.T.
- Historical Studies of all ages
- Systematic Theology
- Missiological Studies
- Basic Christian Foundation
- Practical Theology
- Personal development & Leadership
- Biblical Languages
- Baptist Distinctives

II. Master Levels/Graduate Levels: The Master of Divinity/Master of Art/MRE

The colleges that are offering the Master of Divinity appropriate to their missions and capacities that meet all applicable degree program requirements must demonstrate the followings:

1. The college offering the Master of Divinity degree must meet a minimum of 72/90 for total credits as required secular graduates.
2. The Master of Divinity degree prepares for religious leadership and services, therefore the colleges must offer with appropriate curriculums and study materials with consistent interactions and evaluations.
3. The Master of Divinity degree is broadly and deeply attentive to the intellectual, human, spiritual, and vocational dimensions of student learning and formation in ways consistent with the college's mission and theological commitments.
4. The master of Divinity degree requires supervised practical experiences. Therefore, proper and adequate attention must be made available to the students.
5. Eligibility for the Master of Divinity/Master of Art/MRE
 - Minimum qualification: Graduate in secular/theological studies,
 - Duration for secular graduate will be three years with 90 credit hours/six semesters
 - Duration for theological graduate will be two years with 72 credit hours/4 semesters
 - Faculty: Minimum M. Th./Ph.D.

6. Basic Courses leading to The Master of Divinity/Master of Art/MRE:

- Biblical Exegetical Studies
- Historical Studies: Early, Medieval and Modern church history
- Systematic Theology
- Missiological Studies
- Practical Theology/Homiletics & Hermeneutic
- Personal development
- Biblical Languages
- Thesis for 40 thousand words
- Leadership
- Counseling
- Baptist Distinctives

III. Master of Theology/Missiology (M.Th./M.Miss)

The Master of Theology degree or Master of Missiology degree is an advanced, academically oriented, master's degree for people who already have a Master of Divinity degree or other graduate theological degree providing equivalent academic background. This degree prepares people to study more deeply a theologically related discipline, often in preparation for doctoral studies. Since it builds upon a previous master's degree, this degree may require as few as **60** total credits or equivalent units including thesis.

The Master of Theology degree program as a whole and each of its specific student learning outcomes are regularly evaluated, with the results discussed by faculty and used to improve student learning.

1. Eligibility for the Master of Theology/Missiology (M.Th./M.Miss):

- Any Master: M.Div./MRE./M.A.
- Durations: Two years/Three years with 60 total credit hours

2. **Basic Major Disciplines/Courses** leading to the Master of Theology/Missiology (M.Th./M.Miss)

- Biblical Exegetical Studies
- Historical Studies: Early, Medieval and Modern church history
- Systematic Theology

- Missiological Studies
- Practical Theology/Homiletics & Hermeneutic
- Personal development
- Biblical Languages
- Scholarly Research Thesis with 50 thousand words which should reflect independent research and study
- Leadership
- Counseling
- Baptist Distinctives as special course but it must be optioned for those who came from Baptist colleges where they have already studied in different levels.

IV. Post Graduate Levels: Doctoral Degrees such as Ph.D./Th.D. or D. Min. or Th. D.

The theological colleges may offer post graduate doctoral degrees appropriate to their mission and vision statements. The institute is solely responsible and to have the capacities that meet all applicable degree program requirements. The individual colleges must follow the learning and formation system clearly stated above.

1. The Doctor of Ministry.

The doctor of ministry is an advanced, professionally ministry oriented degree that prepares people more deeply for religious leadership in congregations and other settings, including appropriate teaching roles. This degree requires a minimum of **45** total credits.

2. Defending of researched dissertation will be required in the presence of at least four Doctorate degree holders besides the faculty members of the institution from where the candidate if a student.

3. The Doctor of Philosophy/Theology.

The Doctor of Philosophy degree is the highest degree in any education. It is for an advanced studies, academically oriented degree that prepares students for theologically related vocations of teaching and research in theological colleges, seminaries, and universities. This degree requires a minimum of **65** semester credits.

4. Defending of researched dissertation of the doctor of philosophy will be required in the presence of at least four doctorate degree holders besides the faculty members of the institution from where the candidate if a student.

5. Basic Major Disciplines/Courses leading to the doctoral programs:

- Advance in Biblical Exegetical Studies
- Historical Studies: Early, Medieval and Modern church history
- Advance Theology/Systematic Theology
- Missiological Studies

- Practical Theology/Homiletics & Hermeneutic
- Personal development
- Biblical Languages
- Scholarly Research Dissertation with minimum of 50 thousand words which should reflect independent research and study
- Leadership
 - Counseling
 - Baptist Distinctives as special course but it must be optioned for those who came from Baptist colleges where they have already studied in different levels.

V. Senate Comprehensive Examinations:

1. Each student will be required to write senate papers of at least three subjects, of which the accrediting board will send the question papers from the center.
2. Thesis and Dissertations will be evaluated by three Professors:
3. One from the own institute, two from sister institutes/outside, then the defending of the thesis or dissertation will take place in the same institute where the candidate is pursuing his/her studies.

