

GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF AUSTRALIA
10.7 COLLEGE COMMITTEE REGULATIONS (2007)

Composition of Committee

(1) The College Committee shall consist of the conveners of the Theological Education Committees of the State Assemblies of Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania, South Australia and Western Australia, together with the full-time professors and lecturers at the Theological Colleges (or Halls) approved by the Assembly.

Admission to the Course of Training:

(2) The College Committee shall admit to the course of training for the ministry applicants who (a) have been accepted by a presbytery as candidates for the ministry and are recommended by the presbytery and the state committee responsible for theological education for admission to the course of training;

(b) submit adequate evidence that they have met the requirements specified in 3.

(3) An applicant for candidature for the ministry shall be required to

(a) have been a member in full communion of a congregation within the Presbyterian Church of Australia for at least six months prior to the date of application;

(b) obtain a certificate from the presbytery of the congregation of which the applicant is a member stating that, after careful inquiry, the presbytery is convinced that the applicant's maturity, and personal and spiritual gifts are such as to fit the applicant for the work of the ministry.

(4) Prior to admission to the course of training, each candidate

(a) shall have successfully completed

(i) final year secondary school studies at a level that would qualify for admission to tertiary studies; or

(ii) an assessment set and marked by the College Committee;

(b) shall be encouraged

(i) to complete a tertiary degree;

(ii) to gain experience in the workforce;

(c) shall demonstrate a basic knowledge of the Bible and of the Westminster Confession of Faith;

(d) shall demonstrate competence in English.

The Course of Training

(5) The theological course shall extend over four academic years. The College Committee shall be empowered on the recommendation of the Faculty to give appropriate credit towards the course requirements for previous studies pursued by candidates provided that satisfactory evidence is forthcoming that such studies were of a nature and at a standard consistent with studies at the theological college (or hall).

(6) The faculty shall include in the course of training the following subjects: English; History; Philosophy; Hebrew and Old Testament Exegesis; New Testament Greek and Exegesis; Apologetics; Church History; Systematic Theology; and Pastoral Theology and Training (including Presbyterian Polity).

The faculty shall prepare syllabi in these subjects and submit them to the College Committee for approval.

The faculty shall test candidates in these subjects at appropriate stages in their training by such means as examinations, critical exercises and theses.

The faculty may exempt candidates from Hebrew after the satisfactory completion of one year's study, reporting such exemption to the College Committee, but shall require such candidates to complete Old Testament Exegesis as an alternative to Old Testament Exegesis from the Hebrew.

The College Committee is empowered to give approval to extension courses and to distance education courses but not to correspondence courses.'

(7) (a) The faculty of each theological college (or hall) shall be responsible for assessing the progress of candidates and shall make annual reports to the College Committee on their progress;

(b) The College Committee

(i) may, on academic grounds, remove a candidate from the course of training, on the advice of the state committee responsible for theological education after the state committee has consulted with the Presbytery concerned;

(ii) shall, on other than academic grounds, remove a candidate from the course of training on the advice of the presbytery that that presbytery has terminated the candidature of the person concerned.

(iii) shall remove a candidate from the course of training if after eight years from first enrolling the candidate has failed to complete the course, unless permission has been given by the relevant Faculty to extend the course; and shall then request the Presbytery having jurisdiction to terminate the candidature of that candidate.

(8) The faculty shall direct candidates in their course of training.

Exit Regulations

(9) the College Committee shall issue an exit certificate to a candidate when

(a) the candidate has been certified by the faculty as having completed the prescribed studies to the satisfaction of the faculty;

(b) the candidate has submitted one thesis during the final year of the theological course in the area of Biblical Studies, such thesis to be supervised by an appropriate teacher in the theological college (or hall) and to be examined by an external examiner appointed by the College Committee.

Special Cases

(10) The executive of the College Committee is empowered to deal with special cases, including a reduction in the requirements of the course, as they arise from time to time. If it departs from prescribed procedure in doing so, it shall report to the full committee.

Visitation of Theological Colleges

(11) The College Committee shall arrange regular visitation to theological colleges (or halls) by visitors whom it appoints.