

Nationally Ordained Ministry (NOM) Tertiary Studies

Pre-requisite Criteria for Ordination Candidates

General tertiary studies, vocational training and/or prior learning

A minimum of one year post-secondary school training or study in non-theological field. (levels 4 -5 in the NZQA framework) This may be vocational training in areas such as practical trades, hospitality, IT, education, business or agriculture. It may be part of a general “arts” degree including subjects such as history, philosophy, languages, science, sociology, family and cultural studies. This requirement is fairly general, and may be modified having regard to a person’s life-experience and background in church leadership.

Theological Pre-requisites

A minimum of three years undergraduate (level 5-7 NZQA) or two years post-graduate theological study (level 7-8 NZQA). The subject areas, which need to have been covered during the course of a candidate’s studies, are as follows:

Biblical Studies

Ordination candidates should be able to explore the Scriptures in the light of contemporary scholarship so they can ‘do theology’ with the people of God. This discipline reflects the importance we attach to the Bible as our authority and a means of grace. It includes the appropriate use of the critical tools of Biblical scholarship. The minimum requirements in this area are:

- Introduction to Old Testament
- Introduction to New Testament
- At least two papers in biblical studies at level 6 or higher

Christian Thought and History

Ordination candidates should be able to appreciate the variety of ways in which the people of God have thought, written and lived out their lives as disciples. Their approach to doing theology should include both historical and systematic foundations and methodologies.

Church history provides an appreciation of the traditions in which we stand and to which we contribute and of the ways in which God has been at work among the people of God. Theology engages with issues of hermeneutics, epistemology, theology and philosophy from the basis of an informed understanding of the fundamental doctrines of the Christian faith. The minimum requirements in this area are:

- Survey from the early church to the present day
- New Zealand Christianity
- Introduction to theology including theological method
- Doctrine of God and Christology
- Ecclesiology (including church and sacraments)
- Theological ethics

Practical Ministry in Church and Society

Because of the ministry focus of the NOM Internship Studies Programme, Ordination candidates should not major in practical ministry subjects in their foundational studies, but some practical theology is desirable. Candidates should include the following:

- Practical or Applied theology studies in any of Mission, Pastoral Care, Spiritual Formation/Ministry Reflection, Christian Education, Leadership.
- at least one practical ministry/theology paper at level 6 or higher
- a paper on Maori language and/or culture (not a strict pre-requisite, though you are strongly encouraged to take this paper)

The attainment of the degree or qualification itself may have further requirements, depending on the provider.