

# Converting to the Higher Certificate in Theology from the Certificate of Competence in Theology.

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TEE College introduces the new Higher Certificate in Theology for the 2011 academic year. This is a registered programme (the Certificate of Competence is not registered as it is a short-course programme). It is possible, under certain conditions, for a student to change from the Certificate of Competence to the Higher Certificate. Students who wish to do that in the 2011 registration period will not be charged the usual transfer fees that would normally apply.

*Why would someone change?* The Higher Certificate is a registered programme which means that it is recognised more broadly and it is possible for credits to be transferred to other programmes or across institutions. The current Certificate of Competence is underwritten by the College's member churches, which means it is only recognised and used by them.

Some students have found the Certificate of Competence to be less than the challenge they had hoped for (a level 4 qualification), and will find the Higher Certificate more appropriate (at level 5). Others had perhaps considered the Diploma (at level 6) but felt they wanted something more manageable. The current Diploma in Theology & Ministry is a 2-year FTE (Full Time Equivalent) qualification which in practice takes anything from three to six years by distance-education. The Higher Certificate is a 1-year FTE qualification, and if a student is able to transfer some credits they could complete it in one or two years.

**Note:** because we are considering work from a level 4 qualification for recognition in a level 5 qualification there is a mark cut-off (65% for most courses, 55% for 201 and 221).

Passing a course will not give you credit, you need to have scored above the cut-off mark in the final mark for your earlier work to be used towards the Higher Certificate.

*Should I change?* There are some important questions that only you can answer:

1. How much of my work will I 'lose'? Only certain courses correlate between the Certificate of Competence and Higher Certificate. Use the table below to work out what credit you will receive for the courses you have already passed. If you have

already completed most of the Certificate of Competence then it might be better to persevere and complete it.

2. What does my church require? If you are training for ministry then you do need to be guided by your church's training authorities. Because this is a new qualification they might not be aware of it. The College's member churches have been responsible for creating the new Higher Certificate, but that news and the details might not have yet reached the people you are talking to. Request a Higher Certificate information brochure from the College and pass it on to them.
3. What was my purpose for studying in the first place, and will I still achieve that with the Higher Certificate? Only you know the answer to that.

*What can I do with a Higher Certificate?* If you want to know what ministry you would be authorised to participate in, your church will have to answer that. If you are wondering what further academic work you can do, then successful completion of the Higher Certificate in Theology is the entrance requirement for an Advanced Certificate in Theology, a Diploma in Theology, or similar.

Finally, if you have completed your Certificate of Competence and are considering further theological education then bear in mind that the entrance requirements for the Higher Certificate and a Diploma are the same. The length and level of study is different, but the start is the same. Consider carefully which path you want to follow. A Higher Certificate will be a waste of time and money if you are aiming for a Diploma, but it may be appropriate if you are aiming for a shorter programme at an introductory level.

To obtain the Higher Certificate in Theology a student must complete the Fundamental course, all Compulsory courses, and two elective courses of the student's choice:

Course Code	Course Name	Course Status	Credits
	Investigating our Christian World	Fundamental	24
	Introduction to the Old Testament	Compulsory	12
	Introduction to the New Testament	Compulsory	12
	Introduction to Spirituality	Compulsory	12
	Introduction to Theology	Compulsory	12
	Introduction to Christian Ethics	Compulsory	12
	Call to Discipleship	Compulsory	12
	South African Church History	Elective	12

Course Code	Course Name	Course Status	Credits
	Christian Proclamation: Preaching	Elective	12
	Pastoral Response to HIV & Aids	Elective	12
	Pastoral Care	Elective	12

How to determine if you qualify to transfer completed work from the Certificate of Competence in Theology to the new Higher Certificate in Theology:

Did you have a Std 10 / Grade 12 Certificate when you started the Certificate of Competence in Theology? (i.e. When you enrolled for your very first course on the Certificate of Competence).

NO: - then you cannot transfer to the Higher Certificate.

YES: - complete the table below.

Instructions to complete the table:

1. Write your final mark for completed courses in the second column ("your mark").
2. If your mark equals, or is greater than, the cut-off mark, then put a tick in the "qualify" column.
3. If you have 5 or less ticks, then you can transfer all the courses that qualified.  
If you have more than 5 ticks, then you must select only 5 eligible courses for transfer. Mark those in the "transfer" column.
4. The name to the right of your transfer credits is the name of the Higher Certificate course than your credits will be transferred to. You do not need to register for those courses - But do complete a Transfer Form.

Note: If you have passed other Certificate of Competence courses that are not shown in the table below, unfortunately you are not able to transfer them. Only the courses listed are eligible for transfer.

Course Code	Your mark	Cut-off mark %	Do you Qualify?	Transfer? (max 5)	Higher Certificate Course Name
201		55 %			Intro to the Old Testament
221		55 %			Intro to the New Testament
241		65 %			Intro to Theology
253		65 %			South African Church History
266		65 %			Intro to Christian Ethics

Course Code	Your mark	Cut-off mark %	Do you Qualify?	Transfer? (max 5)	Higher Certificate Course Name
270		65 %			Call to Discipleship
272		65 %			Christian Proclamation: Preaching
274		65 %			Pastoral Care
276		65 %			Intro to Spirituality
278		65 %			Pastoral response to HIV & Aids

If you have more than five courses that qualify for transfer then you might consider transferring electives and registering for Intro to the Old Testament, Intro to the New Testament, or Intro to Theology as these three courses are significantly different from what you would have experienced in the Certificate of Competence.

**Remember:** Speak to your church authorities about this if your studies are related to your preparation for ministry.