

DISCIPLINE MODERATION POLICY

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| Approved | Academic Board |
| Approval Date | 3/5/2021, 21/4/2021, 14/3/2011, 12/5/2010, 2/3/2009 |
| Date for Review | |
| Responsible Officer | Academic Director |
| Author / Role | P Bolt (Academic Director) N Holm (Director of Coursework) |
| Related Documents (explicitly cross-referenced) | Discipline Moderation Procedures |
| Higher Education Standards (2015) | 5.3 (1-4), 6.2.1 (F), 6.3.1 (a,b), 6.3.2 (a-h) |
| National Code (2018) (if directly relevant) | N/A |

1. DISCIPLINES

Education in the Sydney College of Divinity (the College) is organised within four disciplines:

- Biblical Studies
- Theology (Systematic Theology, Christian Ethics, Worship and Liturgy)
- Humanities in the Christian Tradition (Church History, Philosophy, Theological Education; and as adjuncts units labelled A)
- Christian Life & Ministry (Christian Spirituality, Mission, Pastoral Counselling, Pastoral Theology)

In each discipline, teaching and scholarly work are coordinated across Teaching Bodies by a Discipline Coordinator. For the purposes of Moderation, Biblical Languages (Hebrew; Greek) are moderated with Biblical Studies, and Ecclesiastical Languages (Latin; Arabic; Syriac) are moderated with Theology.

2. PURPOSE OF MODERATION

The purpose of moderation is to assist the Academic Board and Teaching Bodies to ensure that:

- student learning is maximised
- academic standards within each discipline appropriate to the Sydney College of Divinity as a degree granting institution in the Australian Higher Education system are maintained
- those standards are uniform across the various Teaching Bodies.

The work of the Moderation Panels will also help the Sydney College of Divinity in its Quality Assurance for TEQSA.

3. MODERATION CYCLE

In addition to regular and on-going moderation by the Discipline Coordinators, each Discipline undergoes moderation by External Moderators once every four years. The moderation process is under the jurisdiction of the Discipline Coordinators and Academic Board, and operates under the Discipline Moderation Procedures, which include two forms headed "Discipline Moderation Areas, Indicators and Assessments", dealing with SCD as a whole (Form 1), and individual Teaching Bodies (Form 2).

Each year the Discipline Moderation will also include a moderation of the SCD libraries in relation to the discipline being moderated that year, which will be conducted independently of the moderation panel.

4. THE MODERATORS

The complexity of the discipline being moderated will determine the size of the Moderation Panel. The Academic Board will appoint two or more moderators for each discipline moderation. The Dean may choose to serve as a moderator.

The Academic Board will also appoint a moderator with academic library experience who, working independently of the Panel, will provide a separate moderation report on the SCD libraries in relation to the discipline being moderated.

Other than the Dean, all Moderators will

- be external to the Sydney College of Divinity and to the Teaching Bodies
- have the knowledge and academic experience to conduct such institutional moderations.

Each Moderator will receive (with copies also supplied to the Discipline Coordinator):

- reimbursement of actual and reasonable costs of transport, food and accommodation during moderation visits
- an honorarium of \$500 for each moderation (except the Dean).
- a copy of this Discipline Moderation Policy and the related document 'Discipline Moderation Procedures'.
- a copy of the pertinent section of the SCD curriculum (accredited Course Unit Outlines).

5. THE MODERATION REPORTS

The Moderation Panel and the Moderator of SCD Libraries will both produce reports on their moderation for the SCD Academic Director, who will present both reports to the Discipline Coordinators Committee and thence to the Academic Board.