# Proposed Changes to the Diploma of Theology Course at Pacific Adventist College

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Over the last year or two, Pacific Adventist College has, through appropriate committees, and the College Board, been studing its theological training, at both the diploma and degree (B.Th.) levels.

Meetings have been held at the College, near Port Moresby, and in Fiji, and discussions, in Australia, and elsewhere, to ensure that the training offered is adequate for the graduates of these courses, so that they can perform successfully the duties in the ministry that they are called upon to perform.

As a result, a new three-year diploma course in theology is to be introduced in the 1992 school year, which is to replace the present two-year diploma course. It is believed that this new course will better prepare men and women for the work of ministry.

Pacific Adventist College works on the basis that diploma graduates, who have come straight from high school (grade 12), ought to go out into the ministry for at least two years, and have actual experience, before returning to do the degree module. Only those who qualify, with a stipulated level of pass in their diploma work, are accepted into the degree module. The present degree module is a two-year period of study, built on the two-year diploma. Thus, a total of four years is spent to earn the Bachelor of Theology degree (plus the years spent in ministry, referred to, above). A number of students, who have graduated with the current B.Th. degree, have gone on, and have successfully enrolled in M.A. courses overseas.

The College is still studying the question of the new degree module, that is to be built onto the new three-year diploma, that is to be introduced in 1992. Whether this will be a one-year module, has not yet been decided. The Ministrial Training Advisory Committee, that is to look into this question, will most likely do so early in 1992, and make its recommendations to the College Board of Management.