



**KANANA FOU THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE
(KFTC)**

Programme Accreditation

SPATS Commission Evaluation Report

June 2024

Introduction

The **Kanana Fou Theological College (KFTC)** was established by the Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa to be a theological training institute and was inaugurated in 1983. The institution is located within the headquarters of the church in Pago Pago, American Samoa.

KFTC began its educational offering with a Diploma of Theology in 1986 but this programme has been converted to a Certificate of Theological Study (CTS) at level 4 on the Pacific Qualifications Framework (PQF). In the same year, KFTC began focusing on ministry within the Pacific context by offering theological instruction to students from Tuvalu and Niue.

In 1997 the College commenced offering the Bachelor of Divinity (BD) that included a research component. Both the CTS and BD were designed to be offered through face-to-face mode on campus at its location in American Samoa.

In 2004, another milestone was reached when women were allowed to enroll in the Diploma of Theological Study and Bachelor of Divinity programs. This opportunity presupposes that women enrolled have already completed some requirements in order to develop competence in theological studies. Women who are not enrolled full-time in either program are mandatorily registered in the Certificate in Theological Study (CTS).

To ensure continuity of accreditation status, KFTC applied for re-accreditation in 2021. However, due to COVID 19 travel restrictions, the evaluation process was conducted only on-line. As an outcome of the on-line assessment, KFTC was granted a three-year accreditation in 2021 (2022 – 2024) with a potential full accreditation granted upon a site visit. In response to request by Kanana Fou, a site visit was conducted on the 28th - 29th March, 2024.

Evaluation Team

The Evaluation team (Team) that visited Kanana Fou Theological College included Rev Dr. Olataga Elu, Dean of Studies at Piula Theological College, Samoa and Mrs. Atelini Koroiwaca, SPATS Training Officer.

Purpose of the Site Visit

The purpose of the visit was to confirm if KFTC has adequately addressed the recommendations from the 2021 evaluation report in order to earn a full accreditation of six years. The objectives of the visit were:

- i. To verify the quality of the programmes of study offered by KFTC against SPATS Accreditation Standards, and
- ii. Recommend an outcome for consideration by the Accreditation Committee/Executive Committee.

Acknowledgement

The Team thanks in particular Rev. Dr. M Niutoa, the President, Dr. Simi Mauga, the Vice President, Rev. Dr. Elekosi Lafitaga, the Dean of Academics, and all other key faculty members who were available and assisted with the verification process.

Challenges

Due to recent changes in the travel requirements to American Samoa, only Rev. Dr. Olataga Elu, the Dean of Studies from Piula Methodist Theological College Dean was able to travel across to Kanana Fou on the eve of Day 1.

Details of all meetings are noted in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Site visit programme to KFTC

| TIME | ACTIVITY | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| | DAY 1 – Wednesday, 28/3/24 | DAY 2 – Thursday, 29/3/24. |
| 9:30 – 10:00 am | | Tour of Campus and assessment of physical facilities and learning resources |
| 10:00 am | | |
| 10:30-11:00 am | B R E A K | |
| 11:00 am-1:00 pm | | Verification of documents – Programmes documents, Assessment tasks & Marking Guides, samples of students work Evaluation team meeting with key staff members – via zoom |
| 1:00-2:00 pm | Arrival at KFTC | LUNCH BREAK |
| 2:00-3:00 pm | Meeting with Principal & administration staff | Evaluation team meeting – via zoom |
| 3:00 – 4:00pm | Evaluation team meeting – via zoom | Debriefing of the Principal & Staff |

Documents available for verification purpose

1. Revised Student Handbook (2022 – 2027)
2. Previous Student Handbook
3. Programme documents – Certificate in Theology & Bachelor of Divinity
4. Assessment Plans
5. Marking Guides and Rubrics
6. Samples of Student Marked Work

Statement of Compliance

Programme of Study

- a. Bachelor of Divinity
- b. Certificate in Theological Study

| | | |
|-----|--------------------------------------|---------------------|
| 2.1 | Curriculum | Optimal compliant |
| 2.2 | Faculty | Optimal compliant |
| 2.3 | Resources | Optimal compliant |
| 2.4 | Modes of Delivery & Learning Methods | Threshold compliant |
| 2.5 | Assessment | Threshold compliant |
| 2.6 | Policies | Threshold compliant |
| 2.7 | Monitoring & Evaluation | Threshold compliant |

SPATS Commission Findings

From the evidence provided by the visit team, KFTC had made acceptable progress to rectify the gaps identified during the on-line evaluation in 2021.

The SPATS Commission met on 22nd May, 2024 and consequently endorsed by the SPATS Executive Committee resolved as follows:

Resolution:

EC24 /1/1: The EXCOM is requested to note that, in view of the late submission of evidences from KFTC, the Secretariat is requested to again assess their submission for a decision by the Accreditation Commission members via the zoom platform in two weeks time.

Consequently, on 7/6/24, the Commission finally met to substantiate the mid visit report that KFTC has demonstrated its capability to meet the accreditation standards and guidelines of SPATS.

Decision:

That both the KFTC – Bachelor of Divinity (level 7) and the Certificate in Theological Study (level 4) be granted full accreditation for six years from (2022- 2027).

PROGRAMME AND QUALIFICATION INFORMATION

Theological Institution

Aligned with the vision of the College, KFTC offers two (2) academic programmes: Certificate of Theological Studies (CTS) and Bachelor of Divinity (BD). These programmes are geared towards preparing two bands of candidates:

- (1) those who will take ministry full-time; and
- (2) those who will continue to pursue further theological education beyond Kanana Fou.

Both programmes are vital to training candidates of ministry with subjects that empower them within their fields of ministry, enabling them with quality theological education needed to succeed academically and professionally.

1. Certificate in Theological Study, level 4

The Certificate in Theological Study (CTS) is intended for:

- 1) those who would like a KFTC award in theology, but do not feel ready to commit themselves to studying for a full degree; and
- 2) those students who do not satisfy the KFTC entrance requirements for admission.

The CTS is a two-year program designed to introduce students to foundational levels of theological, biblical, and historical studies of the Christian church. It seeks to offer training to those who have busy secular careers but lack theological education. It also seeks to rejuvenate and enhance the understanding of the laity for pastoral ministry and related fields of services. The Certificate shares most of the outcomes and half of the coursework required by the BD degree.

2. Bachelor of Divinity, level 7

The Bachelor of Divinity (BD) is a theological degree programme designed to integrate academic excellence with spiritual formation, in order to prepare church leaders and educators for vocations in a variety of ministries.

It also aims at preparing students for the competent scholarly development of a special field of study in the context of the theological disciplines. Furthermore, the student is also expected to demonstrate understanding of the methodological and epistemological presuppositions of the field of concentration and to become capable of advancing the field through research.

Evaluation Outcomes:

3. Curriculum

Commendation:

- The curriculum for the Divinity programme, including its title, purpose and learning outcomes is coherent. The title of the qualification clearly indicates the subject area and also conforms to the naming protocol.
- The purpose statement identifies why students should study the qualification; to prepare Congregational Christian Church in American Samoa leaders and educators for vocations in a variety of ministries and to provide an opportunity for further studies in a chosen theological/biblical field.
- The learning outcomes are pegged at levels 6 – 8 with a total of 432 credit points. This meets the PQF Bachelor type qualification with its credit points range of 360 – 480. This is a reduction by 4 courses and credit points from 480 in the last evaluation.
- The qualification structure is appropriate to the purpose and learning outcomes. For example, the combination of components is consistent with its purpose and the qualification length is defined and appropriate.
- The BD programme reflects the characteristics of theological education.

Recommendation:

- That KFTC reviews the nested package and provide information pertaining to each qualification. Such information will assist the potential students and other interested key stakeholders make better decision relating to study programs of choice.
- Reviews learning outcomes specific to the CTS qualification.

4. Faculty**Commendation:**

- KFTC clearly has the academic staff capacity to support and sustain the delivery of the qualifications, in all delivery modes. There is adequate staff number who are appropriately qualified theologians. KFTC has about 8 full time faculty members with about 20 external and part time lecturers.

Recommendation:

- That KFTC considers facilitating in-house training workshops to upskill and strengthen the teaching/training/mentoring skills.
- That KFTC considers staff exchange/sharing arrangement with its sister college in Apia. Such arrangements would be cost-effective and provide an opportunity for resource-sharing.
- That the Field Education manual or guide be revised to meet changing current contexts.

5. Resources**Commendation:**

- KFTC has the capacity, the library and ICT facilities, teaching facilities, physical resources and support services to support sustained delivery of the qualifications. For instance, it has four classrooms, a library which currently has approximately 20,000 volumes, multiple series of journals, periodicals and student academic projects. In cooperation with the Feleti Barstow Library, the KFTC library also provides services and resources for the general public. In addition, KFTC also provides adequate access to appropriate IT resources, as appropriate.
- There is also sufficient and appropriate programme information and guidance and support systems available to students. For example, the Handbook is available for all to glean information from.

Concern:

There appears to be some misunderstanding about the requirements for Quality Processes necessary to support implementation and sustained delivery of the qualification.

Recommendation:

- That KFTC seeks assistance on the implementation of this requirement.

6. Modes of Delivery

Commendation:

- The mode of delivery and delivery site are appropriate and clearly identified for the programmes.

Recommendation:

- In light of the recent COVID-19, KFTC may consider on-line delivery as an alternative mode. Although adoption of this alternative mode would require resources, however, its benefits cannot be denied.

7. Assessments

Commendation:

- The institution has processes to ensure that assessment procedures are fair, valid, consistent and appropriate, given the stated learning outcomes.
- The institution uses appropriate assessment methodology to ensure fairness, validity and consistency in assessment, given the stated learning outcomes.
- KFTC has processes to ensure that assessment procedures are fair, valid, consistent and appropriate, given the stated learning outcomes (See CTS-Program document page 12).
- In response to the previous evaluation, KFTC has submitted samples of course descriptors which also defines the assessment strategies and marking guides.
- KFTC has also strengthen its student feedback method – now conducted electronically.

Recommendation:

- That KFTC reviews its moderation process to ensure marks and grades awarded appropriately and consistently.

8. Policies

Commendation:

- The Hadbook 2022 – 2027 captures adequate and appropriate guidelines on requirements for:
 - Admission
 - Credit from previous study
 - Qualification length and structure
 - Integration of field work
 - Student learning & assessment
 - Academic policies
 - Grade designation
 - Accessing student records
 - Residential Living
 - Campus Rules and Protocols
 - Disciplinary Policy

9. Monitoring, Evaluation and Review

Commendation

- A process exists for the evaluation, and review of course delivery against defined program standards and regulations and for the monitoring of improvements following evaluation and review; and for determining whether a program shall continue to be offered.

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Atelini Seeto - Koroiwaca