

Frequently Asked Questions about the Diploma in Youth Ministry

1. What is the purpose of this program?

To assist leaders of youth who wish to deepen and broaden their skills for ministry with young people, the Diploma in Youth Ministry provides timely, effective, faith-based training for leaders of youth in the Atlantic region and beyond. Participants Diploma are given opportunities to build skills and confidence as well as networks of learning and support.

2. What is the difference between a degree and a diploma?

A degree at AST is earned through the successful completion of a specified number of academic credits according to degree program requirements.

A diploma at AST is earned through the successful completion of a specified number of nonacademic components (Learning Units) according to diploma program requirements.

3. Who typically enrolls in this program?

At this time there is no 'typical' student. We have people from four denominations enrolled, ranging in age from 21 to over 50. Some are enrolled in other academic programs, some are working full time and help with youth ministry as a volunteer, and a few are employed by a parish as youth ministry leaders. The main thing they all have in common is a passion for supporting young people as they grow in Christ.

4. Is this program tailored for a specific denomination? What/which denomination(s) may apply?

No. We currently have Anglicans, Roman Catholics, United Church people, and Presbyterians in the program. Our goal is that anyone from a Christian denomination will find value in the program.

5. Can this program be completed entirely online?

Probably not. It is intended to be done at least somewhat online, as all the required units (4) are offered online. However some electives and third-party events are residential and would require that you attend in person.

6. Is there a residence (on-campus) requirement for this program?

There is no required amount of residential or on-campus time.

7. What is the cost of the Learning Units?

Required units cost \$420.

Electives units might cost anywhere from \$270 - \$420 depending on the location, the facilitators (e.g. if we are flying someone in from a distant location) and whether any special materials are required.

Practicum units cost \$200.

8. Why does the cost of the Learning Units vary? See previous answer

9. How many hours per week does this program require?

There is no particular 'per week' study requirement. Over the course of all your learning units we expect you to undertake at least 250 learning hours – minimum of 30 per required unit, minimum of 15 per elective, and minimum of 20 per practicum unit.

10. Can this program be taken while completing other studies (i.e. an undergrad degree, a program at AST, a graduate degree elsewhere)?

Yes.

11. Can this program be completed while working full-time?

Yes, if you are organized.

12. When can I start?

You can apply at any time during the year. Applications are processed as we receive them. How long it takes to process them depends on how busy it is in the Academic Office. It will take several weeks to process your application if you submit it in late August/early September, however if you submit it in late spring or early summer it may take only a few days, if your application package is complete. Once your application has been received and reviewed, you will receive a notice if you are accepted, and at that point you can begin your studies with whatever units come up next on the calendar. There is no required order for completing the units.

13. How long do I have to complete the diploma (full-time or part-time study)?

The program can only be done part time. It could be completed in a minimum of two years. You have a maximum of five years to complete the program – from the time you are admitted, not from when you start your first unit.

14. Can I take a Learning Unit without being in the program?

Yes. You would still have to submit a Learning Unit Registration form and a Personal Registration form, and pay the unit fee.

15. If I take a Learning Unit then decide to apply to the program, how long do I have before the Learning Unit “expires” (i.e. won’t count toward the diploma)?

Two years.