

RECOGNITION OF THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES

In view of:

- 1.- The development of evangelical Christianity in Chile, expressed among other things by its explosive growth in the last decades.
- 2.- The insertion of invaluable support from the evangelical church in multiple areas of Chilean society.
- 3.- Law 91,638 which guarantees freedom of worship and judicial equality of religious entities.
- 4.- The need for theological training and preparation for ministers and pastors who exercise their ecclesiastical functions and ministries throughout the entire country.

Considering:

- 1.- That theological seminaries and institutes exist in our country, some of them having existed already for about ninety years, and have in fact been training thousands of pastors and ministers of different denominations and religious entities for almost a century.
- 2.- That for many tasks where pastors and ministers must intervene professional recognition is required today, such as in the Register of Mediators in the Civil Marriage Law and the Family Tribunals, an environment in which the excellent and effective labor done by the churches in helping and strengthening the family is public knowledge.
- 3.- That in order to standardize the conditions, requirements, curricula, and theological levels for those who carry out the pastoral task the wisest choice is for the theological seminaries and institutions to define these things themselves.

It is requested:

- 1.- That the State of Chile recognize the Theological Seminaries and Institutes that comply with the determined requisites and authorize their graduates professional classification.
- 2.- That the standards, norms and technical applications that govern the theological studies be established by the Association of Theological Seminaries and Institutions (ASIT), in which institutions from different countries from the Latin American continent participate with mutual equivalency and validations.
- 3.- That the academic titles and grades that these Seminaries and Institutes authorize be validated in order for them to continue postgraduate studies in Chilean universities.

Presented to the Honorable Minister Mónica Jiménez de la Jara in a meeting in the Ministry of Education September 22, 2008.

Speaker: Rev. Francisco Javier Rivera Mardones

Translation: Joan Meger

CHILEAN THEOLOGICAL SEMINARIES ASSOCIATED WITH ASIT

Seminario Teológico Alianza Cristiana y Misionera.

Dinamarca 578 Temuco
Tel. 45-73-6629

Seminario Teológico Reformado

San Francisco 1506. Santiago
Tel. 5561732

Instituto Teológico Bautista Misión Chilena

Virrey Don Ambrosio 1128. Chillán Viejo
Tel. 26-5744

Seminario Bíblico Nazareno

Cleveland 8040 – Vitacura. Santiago
Tel. 229-7358

Instituto Bíblico Nacional

Av. Ejército 440 – Santiago
Tel. 6725501/6980815. Fax 672-7031

Comunidad Teológica Evangélica de Chile

Domeyko 1938 - Casilla 13596. Santiago
Tel. 695-3161 / 697-0630. Fax 698-9289

Seminario Teológico Ministerial de la Iglesia de Dios

Eduardo Castillo Velasco 520, Ñuñoa. Santiago
Tel. 2743023.

Seminario Teológico Bautista

Miguel Claro 614. Santiago
Tel. 235-7905. Fax 236-1564

Facultad de Teología de la Universidad Adventista de Chile

Casilla 7-D, Chillán
Tel.: 212902 Fax: 226400

Instituto Teológico Interdenominacional de la Patagonia

Casilla 420. Punta Arenas
Tel. 61-219904

Seminario Teológico Alianza Cristiana y Misionera.

Rancagua 0117. Providencia – Santiago
Tel. 6342466. Fax 6351288

Centro de Estudios Teológicos

Sotomayor 19. Santiago
Tel. 681-5901. Fax 681-2922

Centro de Estudios Pastorales de la Iglesia Anglicana de Chile

José Miguel de la Barra 480, of. 205. Santiago
Tel. 638-3009 / 664-0740

Instituto Bíblico Tiempo de Dios

San Diego 351. Santiago
Tel. 696-8216 / 696-1197

GUIDE FOR SELF-EVALUATION, EVALUATION AND ACCREDITATION OF INSTITUTIONS BY ASIT

Approved by the ASIT Assembly September 19, 2002, which was held in Progreso, Canelones, Eastern Republic of Uruguay.

PRELIMINARY TITLE

CHAPTER 1 // PURPOSES

Art.1

Presentation by ASIT. The Association of Theological Seminaries and Institutes, which is also identified with the acronym ASIT, was officially founded November 20, 1963. This association initially coordinated the academic courses and actions carried out by the theological seminaries and institutes of the associated churches. In effect, it was the churches that created the educational establishments and forged the oldest and most illustrious centers of education which are still the most fruitful centers of evangelical formation and theological investigation. From them arose, as mature fruit of a spiritual climate and academic improvement, institutions such as this association which at the beginning of the third millennium are recognized by the Civil Authorities

Art.2

Meaning of the Document. ASIT, since its establishment and over the decades, has not ceased to grow academically, to found new institutions and to incorporate newly associated institutions. In its determined purpose to support the member institutions, and to promote investigation and growth in Christian wisdom among its teachers and students, this document proposes the norms and technical applications that govern studies in member establishments for accreditation.

Art.3

Object of the Design. This guide has been designed with the object of organizing and coordinating the participation of the various members of the educational community in the process of recognition of studies, evaluation and accreditation of the same. In order to do this, on one hand, the required information will be specified, and on the other, the minimum standards required will be outlined.

Art. 4

Purpose of the Document. This document has been prepared and approved by the member institutions of ASIT to:

- a. Define concepts and agree to a **common terminology for titles** that will facilitate dialogue regarding academic subjects.
- b. Establish criteria with respect to the **minimum requirements of the different programs offered**, in order to facilitate mutual recognition of studies carried out in institutions affiliated with ASIT.
- c. Collaborate, through the establishment of the above mentioned parameters, in the improvement in the level of theological preparation in the member theological institutions.
- d. Offer to member institutions a **mechanism for the evaluation and accreditation of their programs.**

CHAPTER 2 // GENERAL ORDER

Art.5

Presupposition. These general guidelines for the evaluation and inter-institutional accreditation present specific orientation regarding the process, but without abandoning the conviction that this type of evaluation should adapt to the internal, contextual and historic peculiarities of each associated establishment. Likewise, the self-evaluation should be an endogenous process and directly linked to the principle of institutional autonomy and to the decisive value of both questions for the betterment of the establishment. In the same way the evaluation will not be a punitive activity, but one that is constructive, participatory and arrived at by consensus.

Art.6

New Experience. The actions of evaluation and inter-institutional evaluation are a new experience for our educational community. Hence the orientation in this document was elaborated by the members of a technical team based on the experiences gathered from different national and international institutions, from recommendation made to the executives and teachers of member institutions, from experts consulted by the technical commission mentioned above, from contributions made by spontaneous participants, and from the National Law of Superior Education of Argentina.

Art. 7

Evaluative Criteria. The evaluative criteria used by ASIT for recognition and accreditation are independent of the name of the respective theological institution and the number of persons who work there.

Art.8

Value of a Credit Hour. With the purpose of unifying the terminology related to credits, it is established that one credit hour is equal to 15 teaching hours of 50 minutes duration. Hours spent on work outside class, such as final exams, practical work, and others, are not included. If two hours of work outside of class are considered for every hour in class that would give a total of 45 hours of study.

Art. 9

Phases of Evaluation. Institutional evaluation is produced in two phases:

- a. Self-evaluation, which is the first stage, is an institutional process developed by its own people that presents, analyzes and evaluates the activities of its own institution and its purposes.
- b. External evaluation for accreditation begins with the self evaluation procuring the exchange of academic experiences among member institutions and the improvement of the quality of the educational institutions evaluated.

Art.10

Dimensions of analysis. The minimum guidelines mentioned in Article 3 will revolve around the following dimensions of analysis:

- a. Institutional governance
- b. Process of governance
- c. Curriculum and formation
- d. Academic body
- e. Students and graduates
- f. Infrastructure and equipment
- g. Accreditation

h. Alterations and amendments.

Art.11

Synthesis. The eight dimensions of analysis presented in the preceding article describe the structure for carrying out the actions of self-evaluation and the evaluation which follows. Similarly the **minimum standards for acceptance for inter-institutional accreditation** are expressed, the necessary compilation of information is proposed, and the activities leading toward the formation of evaluative judgments are presented so that the institution can carry out its self-evaluation.

**TITLE I
INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE**

Art.12

The interpretation of an educational institution supposes undertaking in systematic manner the analysis of its governance capacity. That implies not only the forms of governance, but also the mechanisms of institutional coordination that make possible the academic activities of its members. To evaluate the governance capacities in their specific context and problems requires the information that figures in the following chapters.

CHAPTER 1 // HISTORY

Art.13

A brief summary shall be presented regarding the circumstances and background of the institution.

Art.14

It should be specified if the institution has participated in a denominational process of evaluation or an external national or international evaluation. If it has passed through this experience, a summary of the most significant conclusions should be included.

CHAPTER 2 // THE THEOLOGICAL INSTITUTION

Art. 15

Is it accountable to a church/denomination or denominations, foundation or judicial entity that names the committee or directive organism that has jurisdiction over all aspects of the institutional government, delegating authority to direct to the Rector/Dean and the other collegiate bodies?

**CHAPTER 3 // DIFFERENTIATION AMONG THEOLOGICAL
INSTITUTIONS**

Art. 16

Faculty. An academic unit dependent on a university that offers graduate and postgraduate degrees in theology equivalent to the secular academic sphere.

Art. 17

Seminary. An institution specializing in graduate and postgraduate theological degrees.

Art. 18

Institute. An institution that offers flexible programs and a diploma in theology.

- a. It will be governed in a form similar to that of a seminary.
- b. It will require that the teachers possess degrees or studies superior to the level of the discipline they are teaching.
- c. The curriculum will be defined and must include at least a class program or plan of study for each course.

Art. 19

Center. An institution that offers flexible programs and certificates

- a. It is governed by a committee or administrative commission that acts as guarantor for the operation over which it presides.
- b. The curriculum must develop a systematic program.

CHAPTER 4 // PHILOSOPHY AND OBJECTIVES

Art. 20.

These must be written up according to the annexed documentation.

- a. The institutional vision.
- b. The institutional mission
- c. The purposes.
- d. The objectives.

TITLE II GOVERNANCE AGENCIES

Art. 21 The governance agencies vary among the institutions, even among units of the same institution. It is probable that the educational establishments going through transformations assume different methods of governing. The network of administrative actions and the management itineraries generate products and services that are efficient for the academic activities. In the following chapters a description of the principal participating bodies will be requested.

Art. 22

The support activities should promote the academic self evaluation.

CHAPTER 1 // AGENCIES OF GOVERNANCE AND MANAGEMENT

Art. 23

The members of these collegiate bodies guard the coherence between the identity, orientation and performance of the institution. Likewise they contribute over time to the institutional preservation. They reaffirm the unique sense to which the actions and responses to the challenges in the institutional context and in the State must respond. They also favor the resolution of tensions internally and with the environment. Their actions and style of conduct show integrity and respect for the legal principles of the educational institution.

Art. 24

Describe the administrative procedures. Present an institutional organization chart. Manual of functions, Delegation of authority and responsibility, Communication with professors and students, and vice versa.

Art. 25

Analyze the following agencies of governance and management

- a. Board of Directors or Institutional Superior Council. Representation. Size. Frequency of meetings. Sub-commissions.
- b. Administrative Council
- c. Academic Council
- d. Admissions Commissions
- e. Library Commission
- f. Discipline Tribunal
- g. Investigation Commission
- h. Publications Commission

CHAPTER 2 // AGENCIES OF PRESENTATION AND STANDARDS

Art. 26 Analyze the following agencies of presentation and standards:

- a. Office of Vice-rectors. Specify if this is instituted. Their functions and contributions to the institution. A brief description of the mechanisms for election of its authorities.
- b. Dean or Director of Programs. Name. Duration of designation. Indicate date from which he is to exercise his cargo.
- c. Academic Secretary. Specify if this is instituted. Indicate his functions. Describe briefly his strengths and weaknesses. Method of record keeping. Those responsible. Quality of records. Trustworthiness and security of control. Existence of bulletins and catalogues. Procedure and frequency of revision. Relevancy. School Calendar.
- d. Investigation Secretary. Specify if this is instituted. Indicate his contributions. Describe briefly his strengths and weaknesses.
- e. Extension Secretary. Specify if this is instituted. Indicate his contributions. Describe briefly his strengths and weaknesses.
- f. Finance Manager. Specify if this is instituted. Indicate his contributions. Describe briefly his strengths and weaknesses.
- g. Services Manager. Specify if this is instituted. Indicate his contributions. Describe briefly his strengths and weaknesses.
- h. Office of Student Finance Treasury. Specify if this is instituted. Indicate his functions. Describe briefly his strengths and weaknesses.
- i. Chaplaincy. Specify if this is instituted. Indicate its functions. Describe briefly its strengths and weaknesses
- j. Addresses of Student Dormitories. Specify if this is instituted. Indicate its functions. Describe briefly its strengths and weaknesses.
- k. Office of Secretary of Public Relations. Specify if this is instituted. Indicate its functions. Describe briefly its strengths and weaknesses.
- l. Office of the secretary of Press and Diffusion. Specify if this is instituted. Indicate its functions. Describe briefly its strengths and weaknesses. Publicity bulletins.

CHAPTER 3 // AGENCIES OF SUPPORT, COUNSEL AND CONTROL

Art. 27 Analyze the following agencies of support, counsel and control:

- a. Office of General Secretary.
- b. Office of Planning, Evaluation and Statistics
- c. Office of General auditor and Judicial Assessment

TITLE III CURRICULUM AND TRAINING

CHAPTER 1 // DEGREES

Art. 28

Without prejudice to what might happen in the future, ASIT adopts the grouping of courses, seminaries or degrees mentioned below. Included in its general features are those normally offered in the institutions of theological education of Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Uruguay and, with some local variations, also in the rest of Latin America. They can be grouped in three levels:

- a. Minor Programs.
- b. Intermediate Programs
- c. Major Programs.

Art.29

Minor programs. These are programs that train the student vocationally and spiritually. They begin with theological knowledge via courses and/or seminars. They are cycles of studies that, notwithstanding their generic relationship with intermediate degree programs, are categorized as para-systematic and predominantly practical, technical or instrumental, and are intended to meet the concrete needs of the congregational environment in which they are developed, by means of the pertinent authorization.

Art. 30

The studies of minor programs are exempt from accreditation and do not qualify for beginning an intermediate degree program.

Art. 31

Intermediate Programs. These train the student intellectually, vocationally and spiritually. They begin with systematic study and specialize in theology. They are classified as university or non-university tertiary.

Art. 32

Studies for the intermediate programs are subject to accreditation and prepare the student to continue a major postgraduate degree.

Art. 33

Major Programs

In the beginning these programs are systematically integrated with the intermediate programs in order to promote the deepening and updating of studies. They take charge of the specialized studies.

Art. 34

Studies of the major programs are subject to accreditation.

CHAPTER 2 // NAMING OF THE PROGRAMS

Art. 35

Minor Programs. The courses and/or seminars pertaining to the minor programs have been grouped into three levels with the following names:

- a. Initial Theological Aptitude.
- b. Basic Theological Aptitude
- c. General Theological Aptitude

Art. 36

Intermediate Programs. The intermediate programs have been grouped into three levels with the following names:

- a. Bachelor of Theology
- b. Superior Bachelor of Theology
- c. Licensed Degree in Theology

Art. 37

Major Programs. Major programs have been grouped in two levels with the following names:

- a. Master of Theology
- b. Doctor of Theology

CHAPTER 3 // CHARACTERISTICS AND EXTENSION OF THE PROGRAMS

Art. 38

Initial Theological Aptitude: This is a minor program. The purpose of the course is to provide the congregations with trained leaders, and consequently they are offered in an informal manner according to the local needs. Although they may be structured according to a formal program, requiring physical attendance or free, they are exempt from such requirements as previous academic certifications, regular academic calendar, and availability of specific bibliographies.

Art. 39

Basic Theological Aptitude. This is a minor program. This program of studies develops a formal curriculum with a determined number of teaching hours. It requires a minimum library, but is exempt from requirements of previous levels of theological training.

Art. 40

General Theological Aptitude. This is a minor program. This program of studies requires 64 credits and covers four years with 240 credit hours per year. It is subject to the benefits of accreditation.

Art. 41

Bachelor of Theology. This is an intermediate program. This program of studies requires 64 credits, not including the corresponding practicum and/or residential ministries.

Art. 42

Superior Bachelor of Theology. This is an intermediate program. This program of studies requires 96 credits, not including the corresponding pastoral practicum and/or residential ministries.

Art. 43

Licensed Degree in Theology. This is an intermediate program. This program of studies requires 150 credits, which include the 96 credits of the Superior Bachelor of Theology and the corresponding pastoral practicum and/or residential ministries. The program requires the preparation of a thesis or investigative project of 90 to 120 pages, equivalent to at least 4 credits.

Art. 44

Master of Theology. This is a major program. This program specializes in theology and requires 36 credits, 6 of which correspond to the preparation of a thesis of at least 120 pages minimum. It includes an area of concentration of 12 credits and a seminar, equivalent to 3 or 4 credits maximum per quarter. This does not include the corresponding pastoral practicum and teaching and/or residential ministries. The emphasis of this program is centered on training for critical reading, bibliographic investigation within the field, and teaching.

Art. 45

Master of Religious Sciences or Science of Religion. The institutions may offer other postgraduate programs such as Master of Religious Studies, etc.

Art. 46

Doctor of Theology. This is a major program. It is a program that specializes in theology and requires 42 credits, 12 of which correspond to the preparation of a thesis of at least 150 pages. This does not include the corresponding pastoral practicum and teaching and/or ministerial residencies. It includes a seminar equivalent to 3 or 4 credits, as a maximum per quarter. The emphasis in this program is centered on training for critical reading, scholarly investigation within the field, supposing an original contribution to the field of study.

CHAPTER 4 // REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING PROGRAMS

Art. 47

For the course in Initial Theological Aptitude. No previous levels of theological training are required to enter. A formal curriculum, with its corresponding plans of study, is required.

Art. 48

For the course in Basic Theological Aptitude. No previous levels of theological training are required to enter. A formal curriculum, with its corresponding plans of study, is required.

Art. 49

For the course in General Theological Aptitude. No previous levels of theological training are required to enter. A formal curriculum, with its corresponding plans of study, is required.

Art. 50

For the program of Bachelor of Theology. Certification of studies at a high school level or equivalent is required. (For applicants 25 years old or more without complete high school studies an evaluative examination will be required covering general knowledge considering previous experience of the candidate with the purpose of guaranteeing their academic level).

Art. 51

For the program of Superior Bachelor of Theology. (Type B Bachelor's Program). Certification of high school studies or equivalent is required. (For applicants 25 years old or more without complete high school studies an evaluative examination will be required covering general knowledge considering previous experience of the candidate with the purpose of guaranteeing their academic level).

Art. 52

For the Licensed Degree in Theology. A superior Bachelor of Theology Degree and a working knowledge of a modern language besides Spanish is required as well as a copy of the graduate thesis.

Art. 53

For the Master of Theology Program. Licensed Degree in Theology or its equivalent is required as well as a copy of the Master's thesis or final work for the degree.

Art. 54

For the Master of Religious Sciences or Science of Religion. The Licensed degree or equivalent in other fields, etc. is required.

Art. 55

For the Doctor of Theology Degree. A Licensed Degree in Theology and an entrance examination are required.

CHAPTER 5 // CURRICULUM

Art. 56

The curriculum must be complete and detailed for the grade level, adequately covering the following areas:

a. Bachelor of Theology (64 hours)

- . Introduction (OT and NT)
- . Systematic Theology
- . History
- . Practical or Applied Theology
- . Methods of Investigation

b. Superior Bachelor of Theology or Type B Bachelor's Degree (96 hours).

- . The same as for a Bachelor of Theology
- . Christian Ethics
- . Missiology
- . Religious Movements
- . Eschatology
- . Hermeneutics
- . Sociology
- . Psychology

- . Human Sciences
- . Philosophy

c. Licensed Degree in Theology (150 hours)

- . The same as for Superior Bachelor of Theology or Type B Bachelor's Degree
- . Ecclesiology
- . Bible Languages
- . Modern Language (besides Spanish)
- . Methods of Theological Investigation
- . Contemporary Theology
- . Thesis or final work

CHAPTER 6 // PUBLICATIONS

Art. 57

Indicate the number of publications by the teaching staff in the last three years. Of general publication. With references.

Art. 58

List the magazines the Institution Publishes. Quality: general publication. Indexed.

CHAPTER 7 // TITLES

Art. 59

Consistent with the criteria mentioned, the member institutions of ASIT will authorize proof, certificates of studies and/or diplomas distinguishing the different levels of academic training mentioned in the preceding articles.

Art. 60

For the courses or minor programs the following titles will apply:

- a. Upon concluding the course of Initial Theological Aptitude, written proof will be given of Beginning Theological Studies.
- b. Upon concluding the course of Basic Theological Aptitude written proof will be given of Congregational Protector
- c. Upon concluding the course of General Theological Aptitude, written proof will be given of Congregational Leadership

Art. 61

For intermediate programs the following degrees will be extended:

- a. Upon concluding the program of Theology the degree of Bachelor of Theology will be given.
- b. Upon concluding the program of Theology the degree of Superior Bachelor of Theology will be given.
- c. Upon concluding the program of Theology, with a thesis, the degree of Licensed Degree in Theology will be given.

Art. 62

For major programs the following titles will be extended:

- a. Upon concluding the program of Master of Theology the degree of Master of Theology will be given.

b. Upon concluding the program of Doctor of Theology the degree of Doctor of Theology will be given.

TITLE IV ACADEMIC BODY

Art. 63

The information and evaluative judgments of this unit of analysis centers on the characterization of numbers, dedication and composition of the teaching staff, their training and academic and professional background, their publications, their participation in investigative programs and extension programs, and their commitment to theological training. Plans for training, updating and improving the educational establishment as well as the mechanisms for assigning and evaluating academic performance will be analyzed and evaluated.

CHAPTER 1 REQUIREMENTS TO TEACH IN THE DEGREE PROGRAMS

Art. 64

The professors must possess degrees or qualifying studies superior to the level of discipline they are teaching.

Art. 65

At least three professors must be full-time, thus indicating a minimum dedication of two-thirds of their teaching time to academic tasks.

CHAPTER 2 REQUIREMENTS TO TEACH IN THE POSTGRADUATE PROGRAMS

Art. 66

The professors must possess degrees or qualifying studies superior to the level of discipline they are teaching.

Art. 67

For this level, a minimum of five full-time professors with the maximum level of studies in their areas and extensive academic experience plus experience in investigation in their area of specialization is required.

CHAPTER 3 // TEACHING RECORDS

Art. 68

Personnel Manual. Indicate if this is instituted. Clarity of norms, rights and responsibilities. Implementation. Mission and functions.

Art. 69

Teaching load. Formula for determining teaching load, including functions in teaching, investigation, extension, counseling, administration, supervision, commissions, implementation, and others.

Art. 70

Teachers. Number of teachers. Categories and classification of teachers. Full-time and part-time teachers. Recruitment. Teaching Degree.

Art. 71

Educational improvement. In service Training. Budget for assistance for courses, congresses, seminars, workshops and other academic events. Scholarships for improvement or graduate studies. Procedure for selection.

Art. 72

Responsibility and academic liberty. Specify if this is instituted. Regulations and application.

Art. 73

Teachers' aides. Procedure for selection. Quality. Improvement.

Art. 74

Teacher evaluation. Frequency. Instruments used.

**TITLE V
STUDENTS AND GRADUATES**

Art. 75

Entrance requirements. Describe the method adopted. Who is responsible? Strengths and weaknesses.

Art. 76

Student classification. Regular. Describe the method adopted. Requirements for entrance to classes, modules or areas. Recognition of equivalents. Special Conditions. Mention if other categories of students exist and describe their characteristics.

Art. 77

Number of students. Give information regarding the number of students in absolute figures for the last three years.

Art. 78

Number of graduates. Give information regarding the number of graduates in absolute figures for the last three years.

Art. 79

Student evaluation. Frequency. Instruments used.

**TITLE VI
INFRASTRUCTURE AND EQUIPMENT**

CHAPTER 1 // DESCRIPTION OF THE LIBRARY

Art. 80

Governance. The library must be directed by a Commission made up of teachers and administrators. It must be directed by a suitable person, ideally with theological studies.

Art. 81

Budget. The institution must ensure that the budget process is organized and appropriate. Similarly, a minimum expenditure of at least 5% of the annual academic budget must be designated for updating the library.

Art. 82

Personnel.

- a. Describe briefly the professional profile of the Director.
- b. Specify the contents of the Library.
 - Estimated total number of books in the library.
 - Estimated total number of books specifically for theological formation.
 - Quality of the titles (age, importance of the work, etc.)
 - Number of works in support alternatives (videos, CD, records, microfilms, data bases, etc.)
 - Estimated number of periodical publication in relation to the programs offered.
 - Quality of the periodical publications.
 - Time in which the library contents are available to the students.
- c. Describe briefly the plans to expand the library.
- d. Present the budget to develop (*) the collections, (**) purchases and (***) upkeep.

CHAPTER 2 // STANDARDS FOR THE LIBRARY CONTENTS

Art. 83

For the Bachelor of Theology: 2,000 titles owned or loaned by professors, and/or access to other libraries.

Art. 84

For the Superior Bachelor of Theology and the Licensed Degree in Theology: 6,000 titles owned as a minimum and access to other libraries completing a minimum of 10,000 titles, including specifically theological reference and investigative works, and 20 theological or related periodicals or magazines

Art. 85

For the Master of Theology. 10,000 titles owned as a minimum and access to other libraries completing 20,000 titles as a minimum, including specifically theological references and investigative works, and 30 specialized international periodicals or magazines for theological investigation.

Art. 86

For the Doctor of Theology: 20,000 titles owned as a minimum and access to other libraries to complete 30,000 titles as a minimum, including specifically theological references and investigative works in the field of theology, and 40 international specialized periodicals or magazines for investigation.

CHAPTER 3 // PLANTEL AND SERVICES

Art. 87

Give a list of the property. Indicate the condition of the buildings; which buildings comply with minimum security conditions.

Art. 88

Classrooms and laboratories: conditions, adequacy for the instructional necessities, budget and provisions for materials and equipment, supervision.

Art. 89

Information Technology: number and quality of computers, adequacy for the instructional needs, availability of programs, accessibility for teachers and students.

**TITLE VII
ACCREDITATION**

CHAPTER 1 // GENERAL

Art.90

The evaluation is based on the academic level and on the instructional media that are available to reach and maintain that level.

Art. 91

The norms and criteria for accreditation will have no relation to hermeneutical principles, exegetical presuppositions or doctrinal understandings or stance.

CHAPTER 2 // PURPOSES

Art. 92

To establish the minimum requirements, norms and criteria for the evaluation and verification and the procedures for ASIT to authorize the institutions of theological education that ask, accreditation of the plans and programs that they offer.

Art. 93

To motivate evaluation of the academic level, the institutional life, and make possible a more objective and stable interrelationship among them.

CHAPTER 3 // PROCEDURE

Art. 94

At the request of the interested institution, the Executive Secretary of ASIT will send a questionnaire prepared for such purpose, with the orientation necessary for a self-evaluation of the academic situation, the administration and the physical facilities.

Art. 95

Once completed, the self-evaluation instrument will be sent to the Executive Secretary of ASIT, who will present it to the Commission of Academic Evaluation and Accreditation for consideration.

Art. 96

The Commission for Academic Evaluation and Accreditation will then proceed to designate a delegation to visit the institution and carry out a complete detailed inspection which will permit them to carefully evaluate the actual situation according to the current guidelines. As a result of the inspection, the Commission for Academic Evaluation and Accreditation may recommend one of the following options to the Administrative Commission of ASIT:

- a. Authorize the accreditation for a period of up to five years.
- b. Authorize provisional accreditation for a period of up to two years.
- c. Postpone accreditation until the institution meets the minimum conditions required and makes another request.

Art. 97

The Executive Secretary of ASIT will maintain a detailed record of the solicitants, of the process, and of the periods of authority for accreditation accorded.

CHAPTER 4 // APPEAL PROCEDURE

Art. 98

The institutions that receive accreditation for two years or are denied accreditation may appeal the decision first to the Administrative Commission and second to the Biennial Assembly of ASIT.

Art. 99

In the first case, if the appeal is resolved favorably, the Administrative Commission will inform the Biennial Assembly for its approval.

Art. 100

If the Administrative Commission of ASIT considers it necessary, the institution may be put on trial for a period not less than twelve months and not longer the 24 months, in order to give them the necessary time to comply with the required standards. In no instance will this period be renewed. In this case, the Commission of Academic Evaluation and Accreditation shall indicate the specific reasons for which the institution is placed on trial, and what corrections are necessary in order to achieve the restoration of the accreditation

CHAPTER 5 PROCEDURE FOR RENOVATION OF ACCREDITATION

Art. 101

Every accredited institution must request the renovation of accreditation at the termination of the authorized period.

CHAPTER 6 // FEES

Art. 102

In order to cover the costs of accreditation, the Administrative Commission will fix the corresponding fees. These fees must be paid by the soliciting institution along with the presentation of their self-evaluation report.

CHAPTER 7 // EQUIVALENCIES AND RATIFICATION

Art. 103

The institutions accredited by ASIT will mutually recognize the studies carried out by a student who requests it.

Art. 104

From every student that needs to carry out studies or take complementary or compensatory exams to reach a particular level, the institution receiving the request may not demand more than 30% of the credits of the program already taken in another accredited institution.

CHAPTER 8 // PROGRAMS EXEMPT FROM ACCREDITATION

Art. 105

The minor programs mentioned in articles 29 and 30 are exempt from the process of inter-institutional accreditation.

CHAPTER 9 // PROGRAMS ACCREDITABLE BETWEEN INSTITUTIONS

Art. 106

The intermediate programs as indicated in articles 31 and 32 are subject to inter-institutional accreditation.

CHAPTER 10 // INSTITUTIONAL RECOGNITION

Art. 107

Accreditations obtained. Relations with governmental and non-governmental agencies. Approval of new programs. Documentation.

Art. 108

Agreements. Signed agreements of reciprocal cooperation. Specific results obtained from each agreement. Procedure for approval. Presentation of copies.

TITLE VIII

ALTERATIONS AND AMENDMENTS

Art. 109

The present Regulations may be altered or amended by complying with the following procedure:

- a. The request for alteration or amendment is made to the Commission for Academic Evaluation and Accreditation of ASIT by one or more associated institutions, which will present it to the Administrative Commission.
- b. The Commission for Academic Evaluation and Accreditation may also suggest amendments to the Administrative Commission.
- c. The Administrative Commission will then send the request to the member institutions with the considerations deemed advisable. A favorable vote of two thirds of them is necessary for the requested amendment to be approved.

Translation: Joan Meger

