

# BACHELOR OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES

## PURPOSE

The Bachelor of Christian Studies is an undergraduate study program that provides an education in biblical and theological disciplines for the professional seeking to apply a Christian perspective and commitment to their life including their profession. One third of the degree is undertaken at a university.

The Bachelor of Christian Studies is an award of the Australian College of Theology.

## OBJECTIVES

The objectives of the Bachelor's degree are –

- Personal development in biblical holiness: Graduates will have a mature understanding, grounded in theory and practice, of Christian spirituality including the way an experience of God and biblical holiness can enhance personal life and commitment to the life and mission of the church.
- Comprehensive knowledge of the Christian faith: Through a rigorous program of study graduates will have developed, at an academic level appropriate for a primary degree, a thorough knowledge of the Christian faith including a sound, overall knowledge of the Bible and major theological doctrines, a broad understanding of the historical development of the Christian church and the context in which mission is carried out today and the ability to analyse, integrate, apply and further develop this knowledge in life and ministry.
- Practical ministry skills: Graduates will have an overall understanding of the skills and gifts required for Christian ministry, a mature understanding of their own particular ministry skills and gifts and the ability to begin to exercise and further develop their skills in service for the church and its mission to the world.
- Professional skills: Graduates who complete their university degree will become a member of a non-theological profession with well-informed knowledge of the Christian faith.

## Entry Requirements

### *Standard Entry*

Admission to the undergraduate program is normally on the basis of the applicant -

- Being qualified for admission to a degree course at an Australian university by having satisfactorily completed Year 12 in an Australian school system, or equivalent, and
- Demonstrating potential to undertake cognitive-formative-functional study of this nature at undergraduate level with a Universities Admission Index or Enter Score of at least 75.00 or the equivalent and
- Demonstrating English language skills appropriate to this level of study. Entry is open to candidates from a non-English speaking background who have either satisfactorily completed at least one year of study in English at an approved tertiary institution or have achieved a minimum overall band score of 6.5 on the

International English Language Testing System (IELTS), with no band score lower than 6.5 in Reading and Writing.

#### *Alternate Entry*

Candidates who have not completed study which would qualify them to enter a degree course at an Australian university but who fulfil all other criteria for Standard Entry and who are 21 years of age or more may be admitted as mature age students if there is evidence of an ability to study at this level. Such candidates may be required to -

- Take an entrance test to evaluate their study ability
- Undertake a special study skills programs
- Initially take a reduced load of study
- Be provisionally enrolled conditional upon satisfactory performance.

### **Advanced Standing**

1. Advanced standing of 32cps for one year of full-time study completed in a non-theological discipline at an Australian university (or the equivalent).

2. Recognition of prior learning in equivalent courses: Credit transfer may be given for previous undergraduate theological study undertaken at approved institutions.

3. Recognition of other prior formal learning: Under certain conditions candidates with theological qualifications at diploma level may apply for advanced standing. Consideration will be given to:

- The accreditation of the diploma (only those accredited as a Higher Education Diploma or Advanced Diploma, not the Springboard Diploma)
- The level of attainment
- The material covered and the skills obtained
- And their relation to material covered in the B.Chr.Stud.

Applicants will have to show that the study was completed at a high standard (at least a GPA of 2.0 or Credit) and overall credit gained in this manner will not normally constitute more than 32 credit points. The exact subjects for which credit is received will be determined on a case by case basis.

4. Recognition of non-formal prior learning: In some circumstances candidates with work or ministry experiences or prior learning which are not part of a formal theological qualification but which are comparable to knowledge and skills obtained in the BCS degrees may apply for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). Such applications will be assessed by reference to the -

- Level of knowledge and skills obtained
- Length of time over which they were exercised
- Degree of professional recognition achieved
- And their relationship to knowledge, formation and skills typically developed in the BCS.

Advanced standing obtained on this basis will not normally constitute more than one year of the three-year program.

### **Course Structure**

The minimum time of candidature for the B.ChrSt is 3 years (without advanced standing), including 2 years at BCV and one year at a university. The award must be completed within 9 years. The course may be taken full-time or part-time and by distance mode.

### **Mode of Study and Assessment**

- The BCV component of the Bachelor of Christian Studies can be completed entirely through on-campus lectures or by Distance.
- Subjects offered at 300 level require the completion of 4,000 - 5,000 words or equivalent. Subjects offered at 400 level require the completion of 5,000 - 6,000 words or equivalent. An exam is reckoned as the equivalent of 1,500 words per hour.
- Assessment methods include essay, exams, book review, reflection paper, weekly exercises and practical projects.
- All Foundation subjects are required to have an exam.

### **Overall Credit Requirements**

The degree as a whole requires the satisfactory completion of subjects totalling 96 for an ACT award. Of these, 32cps come from study in a non-theological field of which at least 24 points must form a coherent area of study in a distinct non-theological area of study, e.g., business, psychology, physical sciences, comparative religions. This study would be part of an Australian university and would preferably be done simultaneously with the study of the BCV subjects.

### **Load requirements**

Full time students will normally take 3-4 subjects per semester. Students who are entering degree studies on the basis of mature age entry may not enrol in more than 3 subjects without specific permission to do so. Students must not enrol in more than 20 cps in any semester or 32 cps in any academic year.

### **COURSE REQUIREMENTS**

No more than 32 cps of foundational level subjects (300 level) can be counted in a student's BCS. Biblical Hebrew (LA003) and New Testament Greek (LA004) are excluded from this requirement.

The subject Supervised Experienced Based Learning (PC449) is a compulsory subject for the BCS taken over the 2 years the student is taking BCV studies. In the first year the classroom based discipleship training must be completed. The focus of the subject is reflection, self-evaluation and growth planning in relation to personal spiritual growth through college activities or ministry experience.

The following table indicates the subjects that are compulsory.

<b>COMPULSORY SUBJECTS:</b>		
<b>Old Testament</b>		
OT301	Formative OT Traditions	4
OT302	From Israel to Judea	4
<b>New Testament</b>		
NT301	Content & Setting of the Gospel Tradition	4
NT302	Early New Testament Church	4
<b>Interpretation</b>		
OT303	Principles of Hermeneutics	4
<b>Theology:</b>		
TH402	The Doctrine of God & The Work of Christ	4
<b>Independent study</b>		
IN490	Integrative Project	4
<b>Ministry Formation</b>		
PC449	Supervised Experience Based Learning (4 x 1cp units including discipleship training).	4
<b>Non-theological field of study</b>		
	University studies (one year)	32

The following table indicates the elective fields and requirements in each one.

<b>ELECTIVE SUBJECTS:</b>		
<b>Bible Exegesis: 2 required</b>		
	Elective Exegesis	4
	Elective Exegesis	4
<b>Church History: one of the following</b>		
CH301	The Church to 1550	4
CH302	The Church from 1550 to Modern Times	
<b>Church History or Theology: students must choose a further 8 cps</b>		
	Elective 1	4
	Elective 2	4
<b>Electives: 3 required from any field</b>		
	Elective 1	4
	Elective 2	4
	Elective 3	4
<b>TOTAL CREDIT POINTS</b>		<b>96</b>

## ELECTIVES

Electives may be chosen from any of the following fields:

### BIBLE AND LANGUAGES

Code	Subject
OT410	Pentateuch (Eng)
OT420	Pentateuch (Heb)
OT411	The Former Prophets (Eng)
OT421	The Former Prophets (Heb)
OT412	Eighth Century Prophets (Eng)
OT422	Eighth Century Prophets (Heb)
OT413	Exilic Prophecy (Eng)
OT423	Exilic Prophecy (Heb)
OT416	Psalter (Eng)
OT426	Psalter (Heb)
OT424	Wisdom Literature (Eng)
OT434	Wisdom Literature (Heb)
OT489	Seminar
NT420	Synoptic Gospels (Eng)
NT430	Synoptic Gospels (Grk)
NT421	Paul and the Corinthian Christianity (Eng)
NT431	Paul and the Corinthian Christianity (Grk)
NT422	Hebrews (Eng)
NT432	Hebrews (Grk)
NT424	Fourth Gospel (Eng)
NT434	Fourth Gospel (Grk)
NT425	Pauline Theology and Romans (Eng)
NT435	Pauline Theology and Romans (Grk)
NT426	General Epistles (Eng)
NT436	General Epistles (Grk)
NT489	Seminar
LA003	Biblical Hebrew (8 cps)
LA004	New Testament Greek (8cps)
LA410	*Intermediate Greek
OT303	Principles of Hermeneutics (compulsory)
OT490	Project
NT490	Project

### MINISTRY & PRACTICE - YOUTH MINISTRY

Code	Subject
DM414	Chaplaincy in Educational Settings
DM411	Youth in the Churches
DM412	Youth: Context, Development & Learning
DM413	Ministry with Non-Church Youth

## MINISTRY & PRACTICE - PASTORAL & CHURCH FOCUSED MINISTRY

Code	Subject
PC402	*Foundations of Pastoral Care
PC403	*Pastoral Skills and Methods
PC315	Christian Worship
PC435	*Principles of Leadership & Management
PC440	Communication Principles
PC490	*Project

## MINISTRY & PRACTICE - EVANGELISM AND MISSION

Electives may be chosen from any of the following:

Code	Subject
EM301	Mission Perspectives (Distance Only)
EM403	Biblical Theology of Mission
EM404	Contemporary Theology of Mission
EM408	Cross-cultural Communication
EM409	Cultural Anthropology
EM410	Aid and Development
EM421	*Living Faiths
EM435	Linguistics & Language Learning
EM489	*Seminar
EM490	*Project

## CHRISTIAN THOUGHT

Electives may be chosen from any of the following:

Code	Subject
PE301	Introduction to Christian Ethics
PE420	Christian Apologetics
CH409	Australian Church History
TH425	Twentieth Century Issues in Theology
PE490	*Project

## SUGGESTED STUDY PROGRAM

Semester	3 Subjects per semester	4 Subjects per semester
1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OT301 Formative Old Testament Traditions</li> <li>• NT301 Content &amp; Setting of the Gospel Tradition</li> <li>• CH301 The Church to 1550</li> <li>• SEBL 1</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OT301 Formative Old Testament Traditions</li> <li>• NT301 Content &amp; Setting of the Gospel Tradition</li> <li>• CH301 The Church to 1550</li> <li>• SEBL 1</li> </ul>
2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OT302 From Israel to Judea</li> <li>• NT302 Early New Testament Church</li> <li>• CH302 The Church from 1550 to Modern Times</li> <li>• SEBL 2</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• OT302 From Israel to Judea</li> <li>• NT302 Early New Testament Church</li> <li>• CH302 The Church from 1550 to Modern Times</li> <li>• 1 Elective</li> <li>• SEBL 2</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• OT303 Principles of Hermeneutics</li> <li>• 1 Elective</li> <li>• SEBL 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• OT303 Principles of Hermeneutics</li> <li>• 1 Elective</li> <li>• 1 Exegesis Elective</li> <li>• SEBL 3</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• 2 Electives or Exegesis</li> <li>• SEBL 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• 2 Electives or Exegesis</li> <li>• Integrative Project</li> <li>• SEBL 4</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Electives or Exegesis</li> <li>• Integrative Project</li> </ul>	