

# BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY/MINISTRIES

## PURPOSE

The Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Ministries degrees are programs of undergraduate study that provide education in biblical, theological, missiological and ministry related disciplines. The awards seek to integrate spiritual formation and personal discipleship, biblical and theological study and reflection and ministry skills development.

The Bachelor of Theology is distinguished from the Bachelor of Ministries in that students are required to take New Testament Greek (with an additional option of Hebrew) and to complete the required language, translation and exegesis subjects in Greek and/or Hebrew.

These degrees are designed to be appropriate preparation for a wide range of Christian ministries including those conducted by lay leaders as well as specialised professional, leadership ministries.

Both the Bachelor of Theology and the Bachelor of Ministries are awards of the Australian College of Theology.

They articulate to the Graduate Diploma in Ministry and Master of Arts in Ministry (BMin graduates) or Graduate Diploma in Theology, Master of Arts in Theology (BTh graduates) programs available through the College.

The BMin and BTh degrees have an honours year, a further year of full time study, for students who complete the basic degree at an advanced level.

## 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.

In addition to this,

- The focus of the BMin. is on the development of ministry skills through the application of theoretical knowledge to various ministry vocations. The BMin. provides training for Christian ministry through the provision of a flexible program with a wide choice of electives from the Pastoral & Church Focussed Ministry, Youth Ministry, Evangelism & Mission, Theology/Church History, and Biblical Studies (English) fields.
- The focus of the BTh. is on the development of the students' ministry potential through biblical and theological study with major attention given to Biblical languages, translation and exegesis.

## 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 program
- Initially take a reduced load of study
- Be provisionally enrolled conditional upon satisfactory performance.

## Advanced Standing

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

2. 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
- The level of attainment
- The material covered and the skills obtained
- And their relation to material covered in the BMin. /BTh.

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 64 credit points from an Higher Ed. Advanced Diploma and 44 credit points from a Higher Ed. Diploma in the undergraduate degree but only 8 credit points from a VET Cert IV or Diploma. Students must ultimately cover all the requirements of the undergraduate degree by completion of courses in that program or by having equivalents. The exact subjects for which credit is received will be determined on a case by case basis.

3. 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 BMin/BTh 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 BMin/BTh.

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

4. B. Chr.Stud. and Assoc. Deg. Students may be granted up to 64cps of advanced standing provided they surrender their B.Chr.Stud. or Assoc.Deg.

N.B. All Advanced Standing is subject to review in the event of failure in a subject during the first 16 credit points of study.

## **Course Structure - Bachelor of Ministries/Theology**

### **Duration**

The minimum time of candidature for the B.Th/B.Min is 3 years (without advanced standing). The awards must be completed within 9 years.

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

- The both awards can be completed entirely through on-campus lectures. The B.Min can be completed entirely by Distance but only one third (1 year) of the B.Th may be taken by distance mode.
- 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**

Credit points refers to the overall student effort including contact hours and time on assessment tasks. Both degrees require the satisfactory completion of subjects totalling 96 credit points. The student should expect 3 hours of class time and further 6-8 hours on assessment requirements each week for every 4 cp subject. Distance students should expect 10-12 hours per week for every 4 cp subject.

### **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.

## **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

- 16 credit points in core foundational level subjects (300 level) must be passed before a subject at advanced level (400 level) can be taken. See the subject summaries for specific pre-requisites on individual subjects.
- No more than 40 cps of foundational level subjects can be counted in a student's course of study. 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 both the BMin and BTh taken over the course of the student's program. 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.
- BMin students must take a minimum of 20 cps in Ministry and Practice, with a minimum of 4 cps from at least each of two fields.

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>Church History</b>		
CH301	The Church to 1550	4
CH302	The Church from 1550 to Modern Times	4
<b>Language and Interpretation (BTh requires LA304 and the BMin requires LA302)</b>		
LA004	New Testament Greek (2 x 4 cps per semester required)	8
LA002	Introduction to New Testament Greek	4
OT303	Principles of Hermeneutics	4
<b>Theology:</b>		
TH401	The Knowledge of God	4
TH403	The Doctrines of Grace & Eschatology	4
TH402	The Doctrine of God & The Work of Christ	4
TH404	Church, Sacraments & Ministry	4
<b>Ministry Formation</b>		
PC449	Supervised Experience Based Learning (4 x 1cp units including discipleship training).	4

The following table indicates the fields for which there is choice and requirements in each one.

<b>ELECTIVE SUBJECTS:</b>		
<b>Bible Exegesis: 3 required for BMin; 6 required for BTh with at least 2 in original language.</b>		
	Elective Exegesis	4
	Elective Exegesis	4
	Elective Exegesis	4
	Elective Exegesis	(4)
	Elective Exegesis	(4)
	Elective Exegesis	(4)
<b>Language and Interpretation: BTh only requires one semester of either</b>		
LA410	Intermediate Greek	4
LA003	Biblical Hebrew	
<b>Communication: one of the following</b>		
PC641	Principles of Homiletics	4
PC640	Communication Principles	
EM608	Cross Cultural Communication	
<b>Evangelism &amp; Mission: one subject required</b>		
	EM elective 1	4
<b>Electives: 6 required for BMin; 1 required for BTh from any field</b>		
	Elective 1	4
	Elective 2	4
	Elective 3	4
	Elective 4	4
	Elective 5	4
	Elective 6	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

## MINISTRY EXPERIENCE

EM640 Cross Cultural Field Education\*

PC444/644 Practical Ministry Field Ministry

## 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>• Evangelism or Missions Elective</li> <li>• SEBL 2</li> </ul>
3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• LA302 Introduction to New Testament Greek</li> <li>• OT303 Principles of Hermeneutics</li> <li>• SEBL 3</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• LA302 Introduction to New Testament Greek</li> <li>• OT303 Principles of Hermeneutics</li> <li>• 1 Elective</li> <li>• SEBL 3</li> </ul>
4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• 1 Evangelism or Missions Elective</li> <li>• 1 Elective</li> <li>• SEBL 4</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• 3 Electives or Exegesis</li> <li>• Project</li> <li>• SEBL 4</li> </ul>
5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• PC441 Principles of Homiletics (or other communications unit)</li> <li>• 1 Elective or Exegesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• PC441 Principles of Homiletics (or other communications unit)</li> <li>• 2 Electives or Exegesis</li> </ul>
6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• 2 Electives or Exegesis</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Theology Elective</li> <li>• 3 Electives or Exegesis</li> </ul>
7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3 Electives or Exegesis</li> </ul>	
8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 2 Electives or Exegesis</li> </ul>	