

BACHELOR OF MINISTRY (BMin)

Rationale and Aims of the Course:

(a) *Aim and Perceived Need*

The aim of the degree is to guide students in a systematic manner to the acquisition of the body of coherent knowledge that is the classical discipline of theology as a means of preparing men and women for the responsibility of communicating Christian knowledge as leaders in the church, and if students so choose, to the acquisition of skills appropriate to ministry in one or more areas of pastoral practice.

(b) *Occupational Functions of Graduates*

- teacher or ordained minister in a congregation with responsibility for preaching, teaching, and preparing people for church membership,
- pastor with responsibility for providing leadership in various ministry contexts,
- leader able to take part in wider debates in the church, the denomination, or society with respect to interpreting and mediating the Christian tradition in the modern world,
- teacher of diploma level units of the graduate's specialisation in a theological or Bible college.

(c) *Skills, Knowledge, and Attitudes Acquired by Graduates*

- ability to interpret the biblical deposit, especially those books which have played a crucial role in the development of the Christian tradition, with a knowledge of their original context and their major themes and ideas,
- knowledge of the major theological tenets of the Christian faith which underpin any coherent theological world view and philosophy of ministry,
- appreciation of the historical conditions under which theological worldviews have developed and are being shaped today,
- openness to the tradition of published scholarship and the diversity of viewpoints which characterise that scholarship in the various fields of the discipline of theology as essential to understanding and respecting the discipline and as an integral part of the preparation for communicating the Christian tradition.

(d) *Learning and Teaching Strategies*

- mastering the underlying principles and concepts of the biblical deposit and church history, as presented in the core units in Old Testament, New Testament and Church History,
- once that foundation has been laid, engaging students in biblical exegesis, the major theological doctrines, and the further study of church history, and if colleges so choose, to require the exegesis of biblical texts in the original language, in a way that demonstrates an ability to engage primary sources and an understanding of their setting and historical setting,
- requiring students wishing to prepare for particular pastoral care and other practical ministry

opportunities to demonstrate the skills needed to operate in those spheres,

- expecting students at each level and in each unit to engage with the major published scholars and the major documents—contemporary, historical, and biblical—such that study is a dialogue between scholars, teachers, peers, the central texts of the Christian faith and the students' contemporary social context,
- whether in attendance or flexible mode, teaching takes place within the environment of a community of scholarship, such a context for learning being essential for the acquisition of theological knowledge since preparation for teaching and pastoral leadership demands communal reflection and dialogue about the knowledge being imparted together with its ministry implications,
- demanding teachers themselves to be well-informed in their field of expertise, having been tested at postgraduate research level, committed to a faith community, and embodying openness to ideas, respect for the wider Christian tradition, and the communal search for truth in a rapidly changing social environment,
- teaching strategies employed throughout the course include not only traditional lectures but also seminar presentations, input from specialist adjunct lecturers, and the use of audio, video and IT resources where available.

Admission Requirements:

(a) *Educational Qualifications for Admission*

- Open as a first degree to persons who have achieved a Universities Admission Index (UAI) score of at least 75.00 or its local or overseas equivalent.
- Consideration will be given to other factors such as practical experience, maturity and motivation, and the likelihood of satisfactory completion of the academic requirements of the course.

(b) *Special Additional Qualifications*

Except for those candidates who have a tertiary qualification taught in English, international candidates whose first language is not English will be required to sit an IELTS test. For candidates wishing to enrol in the BMin degrees, an overall band score of 6.5 is required: with 6.5 in reading and writing and with no score under 6.0 in any module.

(c) *Mature Age Entry*

Provisional mature age entry is available for candidates over the age of 21.

Credit Transfer:

(a) *Principles*

- (i) ACT policies with respect to articulation conform to the National Policy Guidelines set forth in AQF documents.

- (ii) The ACT regards the qualifications awarded by the affiliated colleges of the Committee of Deans of Theological Consortia as equivalent to its own, assuming that prerequisites for entry to an ACT award are met.
- (iii) The ACT regards accredited degrees in theology and ministry awarded by registered providers in Australia as equivalent to its own degrees assuming that prerequisites for entry to an ACT award are met.

(b) Admission with Advanced Standing: from completed awards

- (i) BChrStuds graduates may be granted up to 64 cps of advanced standing to the BMin provided that the BChrStuds certificate is surrendered. If a student has completed extra units in the 300–400 pool of units of study these units may be credited for advanced standing in addition to the normal 64 credit points. The requirements for the BMin must be met.
- (ii) Graduates of the Associate Degree of Theology may articulate to the three-year undergraduate awards of the ACT and receive 64 cps advanced standing on condition that the Associate Degree certificate is surrendered.
- (iii) (Advanced) Diploma Graduates:
 - Unless students have successfully completed Greek (LA002, 004) and Hebrew (LA001, 003) for which degree credit will be automatically granted, a maximum of 64 credit points (or two-thirds of the BMin) is available for advanced diploma graduates and 44 credit points for (two year) diploma graduates towards the BMin. Graduates must have achieved a GPA of 2.0 (Credit) in their award for the above credit to apply. The exact units for which credit is received will be determined on a case by case basis.
 - Graduates of the Advanced Diploma with a GPA of 1.75–2.0 may be granted credit for OT301 and OT302, NT301 and NT302, and CH301 and CH302.
- (iv) Students who have completed an ACT one year Certificate IV in theology or ministry may be granted up to 8 credit points towards an ACT undergraduate degree.
- (v) Admission with Advanced Standing from Non-ACT awards:
 - Students who have completed a non-ACT one year Certificate IV in theology or ministry may be granted up to 8 cps towards an ACT undergraduate degree.
 - Students who have completed a non-ACT two-year VET diploma in ministry or theology may be granted up to 16 cps towards an ACT undergraduate degree.
 - Graduates with a non-ACT undergraduate award undertaken at an approved institution, including units of theological study considered of equivalent

standard, may be granted advanced standing up to a maximum of one-third of the BMin degree.

(c) Admission with Advanced Standing: from incomplete awards

Applications for Advanced Standing from incomplete non-ACT awards will not be considered if the units were completed more than ten years previously.

- (i) Students yet to complete a non-ACT undergraduate award course undertaken at an approved institution, including units of theological study considered of equivalent standard, may be granted advanced standing up to a maximum of one-third of the BMin award.
- (ii) Students yet to complete the Bachelor of Christian Studies (BCS) may be granted up to 64 cps of advanced standing on transfer to the BMin.
- (iii) Students who are enrolled in a diploma award may wish to obtain academic credit towards the BMin in one or more of the following ways:
 - There are some units that have the same syllabi in the diplomas and the undergraduate degrees. Most of these are located in the Department of Ministry and Practice and are skills based. One or more of these units in a diploma or an advanced diploma (up to a maximum of 25% of the diploma award) may be counted for academic credit in the degree. The list of units is included on p. 157
 - Where an affiliated college teaches a unit with degree students in the same classes as advanced diploma students, a student who has completed at least one semester of study and has demonstrated capacity to work at the higher level may, prior to the beginning of the semester in which he/she proposes taking a unit for degree credit and with the approval of the Dean of the ACT and the student's enrolling college, elect to be assessed at degree level, in which case he/she will take tutorials with the degree students and do the degree assessment tasks. A student who receives a pass or better at degree level may count that unit for credit in the relevant degree.
 - Students with an incomplete diploma award may obtain academic credit in a degree at the rate of two degree units for every three diploma units which are completed with a credit result or better. The exact units for which credit is received will be determined on a case by case basis.
 - Unless counted in the above provision, students who obtain at least a credit grade in any of the six core foundational units in Old Testament, New Testament, and Church History (all at 200 level) gain academic credit to the corresponding undergraduate degree unit at 300 level.

Notwithstanding the above, students must still satisfy all entrance requirements for the degree to which they are seeking credit. In seeking to graduate with an ACT undergraduate degree, diploma students must also comply with the academic requirements of the degree.

- (iv) Students yet to complete an ACT or non-ACT one year Certificate IV in theology or ministry may be granted up to 8 credit points towards an ACT undergraduate degree from designated units.
- (v) Students yet to complete a non-ACT two year VET diploma in ministry or theology may be granted up to 16 credit points towards an ACT undergraduate degree.

Units Counting for Credit from VET Diplomas to the Undergraduate Degrees (up to a maximum of 16 credit points)

NT445 Bible in Context

EM411 Mission in the Urban Context
EM425 Applied Evangelism
EM426 Church Planting
EM440 Cross-Cultural Field Education
EM441 Evangelism Field Education

PC301 Ministry Formation
PC435 Principles of Leadership & Management
PC436 CPE
PC440 Communication Principles
PC441 Principles of Homiletics
PC443 Pastoral Care Field Education
PC445 Christian Counselling Field Education
PC446 Lay Ministries Field Education
PC447 Diaconal Ministries Field Education
PC449 Supervised Experienced Based Learning

DM301 Foundations of Christian Education
DM440 Christian Education Field Education
DM441 Youth Ministry Field Education
DM442 Children's Ministry Field Education

Applications should be made on the prescribed ACT form available from affiliated colleges.

- (vi) University students granted approval to count ACT units in their university degrees may enrol at ACT affiliated colleges and take up to 32 credit points of ACT units. If the approved credit must be at advanced level, such students may take ACT foundational level units at advanced level as long as approval has been given by the Dean on application from the affiliated college.

(d) Articulation for Graduates to Higher ACT Awards

- (i) BMin graduates may articulate to the Master of Arts (Ministry) of the ACT.
- (ii) BMin graduates who achieve a GPA of 2.0 overall and minimum of 2.0 in the designated field of study to be pursued in the Honours program may apply for entry to the Bachelor of Ministry Honours course. Normally advanced standing will not be given candidates in the Bachelors Honours program. Nevertheless, applications for RPL will be considered for the coursework phase but not for the thesis component. From 2009 the GPA required for all new students will be 2.8.

Duration, Modes of Study, Course Structure and Curriculum:

(a) Duration of Course

- The BMin is a three-year course. This is the minimum time of candidature without advanced standing. The maximum time for candidature is nine years. Candidates may study full-time or part-time.
- All students in the BMin must be enrolled at an approved institution of the College.

(b) Modes of Study

See #5 of the *Regulations* section of this Handbook.

(c) Course Structure and Progression

All students must complete 96 credit points, including a common core of units.

The core units comprise:

- Languages—at least 4 cps of biblical language study
- Old Testament Introduction—8 cps, OT301, OT302
- New Testament Introduction—8 cps, NT301, NT302
- Church History—4 cps, one of CH301, CH302, CH303, CH304 or CH305
- Theology—4 cps from TH401–404

In addition students must complete:

- Minimum of 12 cps in Old and New Testament exegesis
- Minimum of 8 cps in Theology
- Minimum of 4 cps in Church History
- Minimum of 20 cps in Ministry and Practice, with a minimum of 4 cps from at least each of two fields
- 4 cps of SEBL (PC449)
- Minimum 12 cps Type A Electives
- Maximum of 8 cps Type B Electives (if offered)

In general 16 points in core foundational level units must be passed before a unit at advanced level (400 level) can be taken. Individual unit syllabi provide further detail and explicitly nominate any other prerequisites.

The unit Supervised Experienced Based Learning (PC449) is an integrative *compulsory* unit taken over the course of a candidate's BMin program.

No more than 40 cps of foundational level units can be counted in a student's course of study. Biblical Hebrew (LA001, 003) and New Testament Greek (LA002, 004) are excluded from this requirement.

Regulations:

- Students must not enrol in more than 20 cps in any one semester,
- Greek or Hebrew exegesis requires satisfactory completion of the relevant 8 cp Hebrew or Greek language unit,
- Enrolment in advanced level units requires completion of 16 cps in core foundational level units (300 level).

- For the Bachelor of Ministry the core units are OT301, OT302, NT301, NT302, and CH301-305.

Assessment

All foundational level core units require a minimum 80 minutes written exam. The exam is worth 50%.

Word equivalence

- Units offered at 300 level require the completion of 4,000-5,000 words or equivalent.
- Units offered at 400 level require the completion of 5,000-6,000 words or equivalent.
- 4 cp seminars (**489) require the completion of 6,000 words or equivalent.
- 4 cp projects (**490) require the completion of 5000-6000 words or equivalent.
- Each exam hour is reckoned as the equivalent of 1,500 words.

Development of Practical Skills

- (i) Approved institutions are responsible for ensuring that all units of a practical nature are taught and students supervised by competent practitioners who are either members of the full-time faculty or well-qualified adjunct lecturers.
- (ii) The focus of the unit Supervised Experience Based Learning (PC449) is reflection, self-evaluation and growth planning in relation to personal spiritual growth through college activities or ministry experience. Satisfactory completion of SEBL is required for all students taking out the Bachelor of Ministry.

**Unit List and Outlines:**

The list of units and the unit outlines for the BMin appear at the end of the BTh course outline.

