

## BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY (BTh)

### 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 BTh 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.

#### (d) *Recognition of Prior Learning*

In the case Recognised Prior Learning (RPL) applications for admission to the course or applications for advanced standing from an overseas university will be dealt with initially by approved institutions and then by the Dean of the College in accordance with "National Principles and Operational Guidelines for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)" (AQF, 2004).

**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 BTh 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 three-year degree 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 BTh) is available for advanced diploma graduates and 44 credit points for (two year) diploma graduates towards the BTh. 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) 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 8cps 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 16cps 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 BTh 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 BTh degree.
- (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 BTh.
- (iii) Students who are enrolled in a diploma award may wish to obtain academic credit towards the BTh 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. Those units are:
- (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) BTh graduates may articulate to the Master of Arts (Theology) of the ACT.
- (ii) BTh 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 Theology 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 required GPA will be 2.8 for all new students.

**Duration, Modes of Study, Course Structure and Curriculum:**

***(a) Duration of Course***

- The BTh 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 BTh 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 (i.e., 24 semester units), 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 4 cps in languages
- Minimum of 24 cps in Old and New Testament exegesis
- Minimum of 12 cps in Theology
- Minimum of 4 cps in Church History
- Minimum 12 cps Type A Electives
- Maximum of 12 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.

For the Bachelor of Theology the core units are OT301, 302, NT301, 302, and CH301-305.

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).

### 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 4,000-5000 words or equivalent.
- Units offered at 400 level require the completion of 5,000-6000 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.

### DEGREE UNIT LIST:

#### Notes:

- Units marked by an asterisk (\*) can count for credit in one other field of study (but not both) of the same award.
- Research Methods (RM095). This unit is available for Honours students.
- The Honours thesis is designated 499 (H)

### Bible & Languages

#### Languages (LA)

LA001	Introduction to Biblical Hebrew	175
LA002	Introduction to New Testament Greek	175
LA003A	Biblical Hebrew A	176
LA003B	Biblical Hebrew B	176
LA004A	New Testament Greek A	177
LA004B	New Testament Greek B	177
LA410	Intermediate Greek	178
LA411	Intermediate Hebrew	179
LA490	Project	298

#### Old Testament (OT)

OT301	Formative OT Traditions	181
OT302	From Israel to Judea	181
* OT303	Principles of Hermeneutics	182
OT420	Pentateuch (Eng)	183
OT421	Former Prophets (Eng)	184
OT422	Eighth Century Prophets (Eng)	185
OT423	Exilic Prophecy (Eng)	186
OT424	Wisdom Literature (Eng)	187
OT425	Apocalyptic & Post-exilic Prophecy (Eng)	188
OT426	The Psalter (Eng)	188
OT427	Isaiah (Eng)	189
OT428	Jeremiah (Eng)	190
OT430	Pentateuch (Heb)	183
OT431	Former Prophets (Heb)	184
OT432	Eighth Century Prophets (Heb)	185
OT433	Exilic Prophecy (Heb)	186

OT434	Wisdom Literature (Heb)	187
OT435	Apocalyptic & Post-exilic Prophecy (Heb)	188
OT436	The Psalter (Heb)	188
OT437	Isaiah (Heb)	189
OT438	Jeremiah (Heb)	190
OT489	Old Testament Seminar	191
OT490	Project	298

#### New Testament (NT)

NT301	Content & Setting of the Gospel Tradition	194
NT302	Early New Testament Church	194
NT420	The Synoptic Gospels (Eng)	195
NT421	Paul and Corinthian Christianity (Eng)	196
NT422	The Epistle to the Hebrews (Eng)	197
NT424	The Fourth Gospel (Eng)	198
NT425	Pauline Theology & Romans (Eng)	198
NT426	General Epistles (Eng)	199
NT427	New Testament Apocalyptic (Eng)	200
NT428	Other Writings (Eng)	201
NT429	Romans (Eng)	202
NT430	Synoptic Gospels (Grk)	202
NT431	Paul and Corinthian Christianity (Grk)	203
NT432	The Epistle to the Hebrews (Grk)	204
NT434	The Fourth Gospel (Grk)	205
NT435	Pauline Theology & Romans (Grk)	206
NT436	General Epistles (Grk)	206
NT437	New Testament Apocalyptic (Grk)	207
NT438	Other Writings (Grk)	208
NT439	Romans (Grk)	209
* NT445	The Bible in Context	210
NT489	New Testament Seminar	210
NT490	Project	298

### Christian Thought

#### Theology (TH)

TH401	The Knowledge of God	212
TH402	The Doctrine of God & The Work of Christ	213
TH403	The Doctrines of Grace & Eschatology	214
TH404	Church, Sacraments & Ministry	215
TH410	Westminster Confession	216
TH420	Theological Issues of the Reformation	216
TH421	God as Trinity	217
TH489	Theology Seminar	218
TH490	Project	298

#### Church History (CH)

CH301	The Church to 1550	219
CH302	The Church from 1550 to Modern Times	221
CH303	The Church in the First Three Centuries	222
CH304	Church and Empire (313-451)	223
CH305	Early Church History (30-451)	224
CH409	Australian Church History	225
CH421	The Continental Reformation	227
CH422	The Reformation in Britain	227
CH424	The Reformation in Europe and Britain	228
CH425	History of Evangelical Christianity	229
CH445	Reformation History in Context	230
CH489	Church History Seminar	231
CH490	Project	298

#### Philosophy and Ethics (PE)

PE301	Introduction to Christian Ethics	231
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PE310	Christian Worldview	232	PC439	Inter-personal Relationships	277
PE402	Theological Ethics	233	PC440	Communication Principles	277
PE403	Christian Social Ethics	235	PC441	Principles of Homiletics	279
PE417	Church in Australian Society	236	PC442	Congregational Field Education	280
PE420	Christian Apologetics	237	PC443	Pastoral Care Field Education	281
PE425	Philosophy & Religion	238	PC444	Practical Ministry Field Education	282
PE426	Issues in Philosophy & Religion	238	PC449A	Supervised Experience Based Learning A	283
PE488	Ethics Seminar	239	PC449B	Supervised Experience Based Learning B	283
PE489	Philosophy Seminar	240	PC449C	Supervised Experience Based Learning C	283
PE490	Project	298	PC449D	Supervised Experience Based Learning D	283
<b>Ministry &amp; Practice</b>			PC489	Pastoral & Church Focussed Ministry Seminar	283
<b>Evangelism and Missiology (EM)</b>			PC490	Project	298
EM301	Mission Perspectives	240	<b>Developmental Ministries (DM)</b>		
EM302	History of Christian Missions	241	DM301	Foundations for Christian Education	284
EM305	Theology of Mission	242	DM302	Ministry Formation for Chaplaincy	285
EM306	Issues in Missiology	243	DM310	Foundations for Youth Ministry	286
EM324	Principles of Evangelism	244	DM320	Introduction to Children's Ministry	287
EM403	Biblical Theology of Mission	245	DM403	Adult Christian Education	288
EM404	Contemporary Theology of Mission	246	DM404	Christian Education in Practice	289
EM408	Cross-cultural Communication	246	DM411	Youth in the Churches	290
EM409	Cultural Anthropology	247	DM412	Youth: Context, Development & Learning	291
EM410	Aid & Development	248	DM413	Ministry with Non-Church Youth	292
EM411	Mission in the Urban Context	249	DM414	Chaplaincy in Educational Settings	293
EM415	Christian Ministry in Islamic Contexts	250	DM421	Issues in Children's Ministry	294
EM417	Spiritual Formation for Cross Cultural Ministry	251	DM430	Australian Families & Church	294
EM418	Ministry in A Culturally Diverse Context	252	DM440	Christian Education Field Education	295
EM420	Study of Religion	253	DM441	Youth Ministry Field Education	296
EM421	Living Faiths	253	DM442	Children's Ministry Field Education	297
EM422	Alternative Religious Movements	254	DM489	Christian Education Seminar	297
EM425	Applied Evangelism	254	DM490	Project	298
EM426	Church Planting	256	◆◆◆◆◆◆◆◆		
EM427	Church Dynamics & Growth	256			
EM435	Linguistics & Language Learning	257			
EM440	Cross Cultural Field Education	259			
EM441	Evangelism Field Education	259			
EM489	Evangelism and Missiology Seminar	260			
EM490	Project	298			
<b>Pastoral &amp; Church Focussed Ministry (PC)</b>					
PC301	Ministry Formation	261			
PC315	Christian Worship	261			
PC327	Patterns of Spiritual Formation	262			
PC330	Christian Spirituality	263			
PC402	Foundations of Pastoral Care	264			
PC403	Pastoral Skills & Methods	265			
PC405	Principles of Christian Counselling	266			
PC406	Applied Christian Counselling	268			
PC408	Spiritual Formation for Professional Ministry	268			
PC409	Professional Ethics in Ministry	269			
PC411	Preaching in the Christian Tradition	270			
PC416	Denominational Distinctives	271			
PC417	Preaching: Theology and Practice	272			
PC421	Theology for Everyday Life	273			
PC428	The Christian Spiritual Tradition	273			
PC429	Contemporary Trends in Spirituality	274			
PC434	Leadership in Christian Ministry	275			
PC435	Principles of Leadership & Management	276			
PC436	Clinical Pastoral Education I	276			
PC437	Clinical Pastoral Education II	277			