

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE OF CHRISTIAN STUDIES (AQF LEVEL 8 GRADUATE CERTIFICATE)

Course Rationale
The aim of the graduate certificate is to equip candidates with a non-theology background to prepare themselves for postgraduate study as a means of developing research skills appropriate to theology and Christian studies.
Admission Requirements
<p>Academic Qualifications</p> <p>(i) The educational qualification for admission to the Graduate Certificate of Christian Studies is an approved three-year non-theological undergraduate degree of a recognised university, or its equivalent. Prospective students will present full academic transcripts to their sponsoring institution.</p> <p>(ii) Although the degree is not primarily intended for those engaged in full time professional ministry it is recognised that some students, having satisfied (i) above, and having completed either the Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Ministry, Associate Degree of Theology, Bachelor of Christian Studies or Advanced Diplomas of the ACT may have a special interest in the Master of Arts (Christian Studies) degree. Many who complete theological degrees and diplomas do so with no intention of entering full time professional ministry.</p> <p>Language Qualifications for Non-English Speaking Background Applicants (NESB)</p> <p>Candidates who (a) have an assessable qualification that was undertaken solely in English in one of a set of prescribed countries OR (b) who have been resident in Australia with English being the language spoken at home and at work for ten (10) or more years are NOT required to provide proof of English Language proficiency for consideration for admission to an ACT course. All other domestic and international candidates MUST provide proof of English Language proficiency for consideration for admission to an ACT course. Such proof will normally be by provision of the results of an IELTS test (Academic Version).</p> <p>For admission to the Graduate Certificate of Christian Studies, the minimum IELTS result required is 7.0 overall with a minimum of 7.0 in reading and writing, and 6.5 in listening and speaking.</p> <p>Mature Age Entry</p> <p>There is no mature age entry provision. The Graduate Certificate of Christian Studies is a course for students with a completed three-year non-theological degree or its equivalent. While it is preferable for that study to have been completed within ten years of commencing the course, the ACT does not wish to prescribe this.</p> <p>If there is doubt or uncertainty about a student's level of qualifications, the Academic Board may require applicants to complete a bridging course prior to admission to the course.</p> <p>Normally, students will be expected to have professional or other equivalent adult life experience.</p>
Course Structure
<p>16 credit points over 6 months F/T or P/T equivalent (up to 2 years) at 500-600 Level:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 8 cps in core foundational level units at 500 level (OT501, OT502, NT501, NT502, CH501, CH502, CH505) • 8 cps in 600 level units including 4 cps in Theology (TH601-TH604)
Learning Outcomes
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • skills in biblical exegesis, the practice of hermeneutics or interpretation, and theological reflection in such a way as to bring their theological insights to bear upon the world they face and on their roles and occupations in it, • ability to integrate and synthesize insights gained from the student's program of study with his or her vocational and/or life interests, • ability to investigate by means of the project the particular interface of theological study and the world of work and/or life interest of the student; • demonstrate knowledge and competence in their analysis of texts and ideas, undertake reading at greater depth and breadth than that expected of undergraduates, and show ability to read across viewpoints with understanding and to report these with empathy, • display an ability to present well-structured and coherent arguments, • demonstrate ability in all units undertaken to arrive at independent judgments and conclusions, and to engage in constructing their own theological world-view with attention to the deposit of faith and contemporary world-views, • develop a critical appreciation of the historical context of Christian thought and practice and gain a critical appreciation of relevant cultural issues from a Christian perspective

Occupational Functions of Graduates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) graduates of the course will normally continue in their chosen secular professions but will have the understandings and skills to integrate these with their Christian perspective and commitment, (ii) depending on the units taken in the course, a graduate might be expected to participate as a member of a church educational or pastoral ministry team under the leadership of a well-qualified practitioner.
Skills, Knowledge, and Attitudes Acquired by Graduates
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> (i) skills in biblical exegesis, the practice of hermeneutics or interpretation, and theological reflection in such a way as to bring their theological insights to bear upon the world they face and on their roles and occupations in it, (ii) ability to integrate and synthesize insights gained from the student's program of study with his or her vocational and/or life interests, (iii) ability to investigate by means of the project the particular interface of theological study and the world of work and/or life interest of the student; (iv) demonstrate knowledge and competence in their analysis of texts and ideas, undertake reading at greater depth and breadth than that expected of undergraduates, and show ability to read across viewpoints with understanding and to report these with empathy, (v) display an ability to present well-structured and coherent arguments, (vi) demonstrate ability in all units undertaken to arrive at independent judgments and conclusions, and to engage in constructing their own theological world-view with attention to the deposit of faith and contemporary world-views, (vii) develop a critical appreciation of the historical context of Christian thought and practice and gain a critical appreciation of relevant cultural issues from a Christian perspective.
Rules
<p>Only specified pre-requisites apply to units in the Graduate Certificate of Christian Studies. The pre/co-requisites listed for Master of Divinity units do not apply to students enrolled in the Graduate Certificate of Christian Studies.</p>