

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 an Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) score of no less than 77.10 or its 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, LA004) and Hebrew (LA001, LA003) 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.

- Units Counting for Credit from VET Diplomas to the Undergraduate Degrees (up to a maximum of 8 or 16 credit points as stated above):
 - 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 Clinical Pastoral Education
 - PC440 Communication Principles
 - PC443 Pastoral Care Field Education
 - PC445 Christian Counselling Field Education
 - PC446 Lay Ministries Field Education
 - PC447 Diaconal Ministries Field Education
 - PC449 Supervised Experience Based Learning
 - DM301 Foundations of Christian Education
 - DM440 Christian Education Field Education
 - DM441 Youth Ministry Field Education
 - DM442 Children's Ministry Field Education
- 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.
 - 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.
- (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 2.8 overall and minimum of 2.8 in the designated field of study to be pursued in the Honours program may apply for entry to the Bachelor of Theology Honours course.

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.
- The maximum time of candidature may be lessened for students who are granted advanced

standing. Decisions will be made on a case by case basis.

(b) Modes of Study

See #6 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)

Regulations:

- Advanced (400) level units with specific conditions may only be taken when the pre-requisite or co-requisite or required units have been successfully completed and/or any co-requisite unit is taken concurrently.
- For the Bachelor of Theology the core units are OT301, OT302, NT301, NT302, 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, LA003) and New Testament Greek (LA002, LA004) are excluded from this requirement.
- 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,

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:**Note:**

Units marked by an asterisk (*) can count for credit in one other field of study (but not both) of the same award.

Bible & Languages**Languages (LA)**

LA001	Introduction to Biblical Hebrew	165
LA002	Introduction to New Testament Greek	165
LA003A	Biblical Hebrew A	165
LA003B	Biblical Hebrew B	166
LA004A	New Testament Greek A	166
LA004B	New Testament Greek B	167
LA410	Intermediate Greek	167
LA411	Intermediate Hebrew	168
LA490	Project	295

Old Testament (OT)

OT301	Old Testament Foundations	170
OT302	Old Testament Prophets and Writings	171
* OT303	Principles of Hermeneutics	171
OT420	The Pentateuch (Eng)	172
OT421	Former Prophets (Eng)	173
OT422	Eighth Century Prophets (Eng)	174
OT423	Exilic Prophecy (Eng)	174
OT424	Wisdom Literature (Eng)	175
OT425	Old Testament Apocalyptic & Post-exilic Prophecy (Eng)	176
OT426	The Psalter (Eng)	176
OT427	Isaiah (Eng)	177
OT428	Jeremiah (Eng)	178
OT430	Pentateuch (Heb)	179
OT431	Former Prophets (Heb)	179
OT432	Eighth Century Prophets (Heb)	180
OT433	Exilic Prophecy (Heb)	181
OT434	Wisdom Literature (Heb)	181
OT435	Old Testament Apocalyptic & Post-exilic Prophecy (Heb)	182
OT436	The Psalter (Heb)	183
OT437	Isaiah (Heb)	183
OT438	Jeremiah (Heb)	184
* OT446	Archaeology and the Bible	
OT489	Old Testament Seminar	185
OT490	Project	295

New Testament (NT)

NT301	Content & Setting of the Gospel Tradition	187
NT302	Early New Testament Church	188
NT420	The Synoptic Gospels (Eng)	189
NT421	Paul and Corinthian Christianity (Eng)	190
NT422	The Epistle to the Hebrews (Eng)	191
NT424	The Fourth Gospel (Eng)	191
NT425	Pauline Theology & Romans (Eng)	192
NT426	General Epistles (Eng)	193
NT427	New Testament Apocalyptic (Eng)	193
NT428	Other Writings (Eng)	194
NT429	Romans (Eng)	195
NT430	Synoptic Gospels (Grk)	196

NT431	Paul and Corinthian Christianity (Grk)	197
NT432	The Epistle to the Hebrews (Grk)	198
NT434	The Fourth Gospel (Grk)	198
NT435	Pauline Theology & Romans (Grk)	199
NT436	General Epistles (Grk)	200
NT437	New Testament Apocalyptic (Grk)	200
NT438	Other Writings (Grk)	201
NT439	Romans (Grk)	203
* NT445	The Bible in Context	203
NT489	New Testament Seminar	204
NT490	Project	295

Christian Thought**Theology (TH)**

TH304	Introduction to Systematic Theology	205
TH401	The Knowledge of God	206
TH402	The Doctrine of God & The Work of Christ	207
TH403	The Doctrines of Grace & Eschatology	208
TH404	Church, Sacraments & Ministry	211
TH410	Westminster Confession	212
TH420	Theological Issues of the Reformation	212
TH421	God as Trinity	213
TH489	Theology Seminar	215
TH490	Project	295

Church History (CH)

CH301	The Church to 1550	216
CH302	The Church from 1550 to Modern Times	217
CH303	The Church in the First Three Centuries	219
CH304	Church and Empire (313-451)	220
CH305	Early Church History (30-451)	220
CH409	Australian Church History	221
CH421	The Continental Reformation	223
CH422	The Reformation in Britain	223
CH424	The Reformation in Europe and Britain	224
CH425	History of Evangelical Christianity	225
CH445	Reformation History in Context	226
CH489	Church History Seminar	226
CH490	Project	295

Philosophy and Ethics (PE)

PE301	Introduction to Christian Ethics	227
PE310	Christian Worldview	229
PE402	Theological Ethics	230
PE403	Christian Social Ethics	232
PE417	Church in Australian Society	234
PE420	Christian Apologetics	235
PE425	Philosophy & Religion	236
PE426	Issues in Philosophy & Religion	237
PE488	Ethics Seminar	239
PE489	Philosophy Seminar	240
PE490	Project	295

Ministry & Practice**Evangelism and Missiology (EM)**

EM301	Mission Perspectives	240
EM302	History of Christian Missions	241
EM305	Theology of Mission	242
EM306	Issues in Missiology	243
EM324	Principles of Evangelism	244
EM403	Biblical Theology of Mission	245

