



Postgraduate Diploma in Theology at the University of the Free State

Are you called to serve as a leader in your church needing formal theological training?

Do you hunger for deeper theological knowledge and discernment?

Are you looking for an opportunity to develop your ministerial skills and step into your calling with confidence?

Do you want to experience doing theology anew within the South African context?

Are you curious to sense and explore more of God's presence in our midst?

Online applications

<https://apply.ufs.ac.za>

For more information

Contact the academic advisor,
Ms Faciola Ntamo: Tel: 051 401 2786
Email: theology@ufs.ac.za

Closing date for Applications

31 October 2023

www.ufs.ac.za/theology | theology@ufs.ac.za

Inspiring excellence, transforming lives
through quality, impact, and care.



UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA



UFS
THEOLOGY AND RELIGION

This unique programme is for students with an academic background in any field (NQF level 7) who feel called to contextual Christian ministry. Grounded in the soil of the South African context, but aware and connected to discussions across the globe, the programme aims to form students in becoming innovative and respected Christian leaders within their respective communities. The theology we as a group seek to explore and embody together is ecumenical at heart – as we thirst to drink from more and deeper wells the Church offers to us. All theological disciplines are tailored to meet (and even anticipate) the ever-growing challenges of ministry in a world faced with many looming disasters. In short, interpreting Word and the world is the ongoing task of those called to serve.

Module	Duration	Credits
Advanced Studies of the Old Testament The theology, ethics, and hermeneutics of the Old Testament are studied so that you can apply scripture meaningfully within a ministerial context.	Year	16
Advanced Studies of the New Testament The theology, ethics, and hermeneutics of the New Testament are studied so that you can apply scripture meaningfully within a ministerial context.	Year	16
Advanced Study of Church History and Church Polity Historical hermeneutics, contemporary South African historiography, and a selected number of themes of historical and church political trends are studied.	Year	16
Advanced Study of Systematic Theology and Ethics The interplay of systematic theology, ethics, and context is studied through the application of a theological notion that informs the well-being of the personal, congregational, and public spheres of life in the South African context.	Year	16
Advanced Study in Research Methodology and Theory in Practical and Missional Theology Different research approaches and methods in practical and missional theological research are studied on an advanced level. This includes enhancing the practical relevance of research within an ecclesial setting, exploring the multiplicity of collaborative research practices within such communities of practice, and the eventual presentation of a research proposal and a research report.	Year	16
Advanced Study of Themes in Practical Theology, Specialised Ministries and Practicum The fundamental knowledge, theories, principles, and practices of an advanced study of the themes in practical and missional theology will be studied, including a) Practical Theological Ecclesiology; b) Pastoral Care; c) Liturgy and homiletics; d) Faith formation; and e) Missiology.	Year	40

Tuition format

We follow a blended model consisting of an online orientation session for all modules at the beginning of the semester, self-study, one live online class (45 minutes) every week (e.g., on a Wednesday afternoon from 16:00-16:45), and one compulsory face-to-face block contact week each semester. A reading schedule in the module guide will guide the self-study. The weekly online class will be rotated between the modules, and each module will have at least two online meetings per semester. Depending on the module, the aim of these online meetings may vary from presenting and discussing some lectures or group work, responding to work presented in previous lectures, or voluntarily checking in at these sessions to ensure your progression through the module.

It is also important to note that these contact sessions are closely aligned with students’ active involvement within a particular faith community – and students need to work under the respected leadership and guidance of an acknowledged mentor from within their situated faith community. The independent development of your ministerial portfolio is an important outcome of this programme.

Note the following:

- Full-time students do this programme in one (1) year.
- Part-time students do this programme over two (2) years. The block contact sessions for part-time students will be shorter.

YEAR ONE (four modules, 64 credits) 1) Advanced Studies of the Old Testament 2) Advanced Studies of the New Testament 3) Advanced Study of Church History and Church Polity 4) Advanced Study of Systematic Theology and Ethics	YEAR TWO (two modules, 56 credits) 1) Advanced Study in Research Methodology and Theory in Practical and Missional Theology 2) Advanced Study of Themes in Practical & Missional Theology, Specialised Ministries and Practicum
--	--

- Students are expected to be computer literate and have access to a computer, and internet, to participate meaningfully in an online management system (Blackboard) and in virtual classes during online contact sessions.
- The module guides will be available on Blackboard at the beginning of February, and students will have access to it the moment they have registered.

Admission requirements

A three-year degree (360 credits at NQF level 7) in any field, completed at an accredited institution.

Contact session details

Dates	Mode	Details
21 Feb	First of the weekly online meetings (on Blackboard Collaborate): Wednesdays, 16:00-16:45.	Commence with a general orientation into the programme. Hereafter each module will get an opportunity to host the weekly online session.
05-11 May	Block Week I: face-to-face classes	Attend a variety of worship services and ministries in Bloemfontein on Sunday. Classes are from Monday till Thursday. Attend the Ecumenical Tour to the Eastern Free State from Thursday to Saturday.
01-07 Sept	Block Week II: face-to-face classes	Attend a variety of worship services and ministries in Bloemfontein on Sunday. Classes are from Monday till Thursday. Attend a Retreat from Thursday till Saturday.

Please note that the block contact requirements for part-time students will be less.

Projected costs

The projected cost for full-time tuition fees (excluding books): R47575.00
* This is not a quote for 2024 but a minimum cost projection for the full course based on the fees for 2023. The UFS Fees Yearbook for 2024 will only be available at the end of 2023.

Bursaries

Visit the [UFS Centre for Graduate Support](#) for more information about funding opportunities and contact details.

A limited number of small bursaries towards a third of the registration deposit are available to students in need. Send an email with your student number to theologybursary@ufs.ac.za for further information.

Language

The language of tuition will be in English, but students are encouraged and sensitised to work in a multi-lingual ministerial environment. =

Important dates and addresses_Closing date for applications: 31 October 2023

For more information, please contact the academic advisor:
Tel: 051 401 2786 | Email: theology@ufs.ac.za | Apply online: <https://apply.ufs.ac.za/>