

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
**FACULTY OF THEOLOGY
AND RELIGION**
UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

FUTURE-FOCUSED

2024

T: +27 51 401 2667 | E: theology@ufs.ac.za | www.ufs.ac.za/theology

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transforming lives
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impact, and care.*

VISION **130**
Renew and Reimagine
for 2034

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



UFS
THEOLOGY AND RELIGION



***Scan the QR code
and check out the
different careers.***



FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION

If you wish to study Theology, the University of the Free State is the right place for you – here you will be stimulated intellectually and feel at home spiritually.

Vision of the Faculty of Theology and Religion: *The Faculty of Theology and Religion practises theology as an academic discipline with scientific credibility and is committed to compassion for people.*

The faculty is the only institution in central South Africa that offers fully-fledged, all-inclusive theological education to train students for a professional career in ministry. It offers training in all theological disciplines, starting at undergraduate level. The faculty embraces values that encourage cultural, gender, and ethnic inclusivity, promote academic and intellectual excellence, innovation, support, as well as spiritual and ethical integrity. It also strives to establish a sense of community and hospitality within all spheres of faculty activities. The Faculty of Theology and Religion delivers a unique national and international contribution to the development of the church, society, and the academic environment. This is achieved through quality theological education and specialist research based on dedicated theological teaching and a solid research framework.

You may enrol with us for a variety of programmes and courses, irrespective of your denomination. Here, the Word of God, as well as its interpretation and use (in history and today), is studied. We equip you with the correct knowledge, skills, and attitude to serve people with humility and to lead with confidence.

Our faculty underwrites high academic standards. Our lecturers focus on research that is acknowledged both nationally and internationally. Even as early as undergraduate level, we offer our students the opportunity to develop a love for research and practice. Theory and praxis go hand in hand. Therefore, teaching and learning receive special attention in the faculty in order for our students to become responsible, innovative, and serving theologians, making a difference wherever they go.

Our subjects are acknowledged universally. In the bachelor's degree, students are exposed to subjects such as Old and New Testament, Systematic Theology, Church History, Practical Theology, Missiology, and Religion Studies (more about these subjects later). In the first two years of study, students also have the opportunity to equip themselves in auxiliary study areas. Subjects include Hebrew, Greek, Classical Languages, Psychology, and Religion Studies. You will learn everything you need to know in order to stand your ground in the church as a pastor, or as a spiritual leader in the community. We provide students the opportunity to develop good working relations with students from their own and other church denominations.

What about bursaries? Our faculty offers annual bursaries for postgraduate students. Call us for more information. Some churches also provide bursaries for their students. Enquire from your church or get in touch with us for the names of contact persons.

“For us, it is about Theology without boundaries.”

Welcome to the faculty

WHY

IS THE UFS YOUR BEST CHOICE



The University of the Free State creates **opportunities and growth** through leading learning and teaching, focused research, and impactful engagement with society. We offer world-class benefits to all individuals.



What makes us special is that our students are **holistically supported** to achieve some of the highest success rates in the country and that they are highly employable.



What's more, we produce research with industry and **social impact** and **real-world application**.



Our culture promotes **equity, ubuntu, and accountability**.



We address challenges and issues as they emerge, and we deal with them openly in a way that promotes **social justice and human rights**.



Situated in the heart of South Africa, our character of **caring and diversity** translates into an outstanding university experience.

APPLICATION TO STUDY IN 2024

IMPORTANT APPLICATION OPENING DATES:

Date	Programmes for which applications open
1 April 2023	Applications to study any undergraduate programme offered in the Faculty of Theology and Religion in 2024

APPLICATION TO **STUDY AT THE UFS IS FREE**

You can apply online



Remember to write the National Benchmark Tests before the end of 2023.



WHAT DO YOU NEED TO STUDY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE?

For degree studies at the University of the Free State, we expect that

- you have an NSC or NCV with an endorsement that allows entrance to degree studies (bachelor's degree) or an equivalent qualification;
- you meet all the minimum admission requirements for the programme you intend to study. **Meeting the minimum admission requirements for your chosen/intended programme of study does not guarantee admission, as limited spaces are available in each programme;**
- you have a minimum level of 4 (50%) in English Home Language or English First Additional Language; and
- you must pass certain school subjects with a minimum level of achievement in order to take a certain university module. For example, you must get a minimum mark of 50% for English in Grade 12 if you plan to study Bachelor of Divinity. Please refer to the section on the faculty-specific admission requirements, which also includes the respective compulsory subjects and achievement levels required per programme.

HOW DO YOU APPLY?

Visit <https://apply.ufs.ac.za>. Keep your mobile phone and an active email address ready, as you require both to access and complete the online application form.

Proceed through all the steps and submit your electronic application. Make sure that you complete the application form properly, e.g., if you need on-campus residence accommodation or financial aid, indicate this in the relevant section.

Upload copies of the following in PDF or JPEG format when you apply for undergraduate studies:

- Your ID if you are a South African citizen
- Your passport if you are an international student
- Your parent's ID or passport if you are younger than 18
- Your final Grade 11 results with the school's stamp
- National Senior Certificate (NSC) or Grade 12 IEB certificate if you have already matriculated
- Your academic record, only if you are/were a student at another institution of higher learning
- USAf accreditation from the examination board for South African universities. Apply to mb.usaf.ac.za for conditional exemption, foreign conditional exemption, or mature age conditional exemption. A Universities South Africa (USAf) Certificate of Exemption is required if you do not have an endorsed South African Senior Certificate. If you are eligible for the certificate, but have not yet applied for it, we will assist you with the process. Therefore, you can apply before receiving the required certificate. Contact the Office for International Affairs at +27 51 401 3219 | niemannaja@ufs.ac.za or +27 51 401 9032 | tshabalalal@ufs.ac.za

The online application is quick and easy – no hassle, no fuss! It has an easy and modern design and is mobile- and tablet-friendly. You can apply using any device. You can expect a quicker response time if you apply online.

For assistance, contact:
+27 51 401 9666 or
studentadmin@ufs.ac.za



IMPORTANT APPLICATION CLOSING DATES:

IMPORTANT NOTICE: If your application is received after the following closing dates, it will not be considered.

Date	Selection and non-selection programme/s for which applications close
30 September 2023	All programmes offered by the Faculty of Theology and Religion

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR ALL STUDENTS:

- Limited space: Keep in mind that all programmes have limited space available; therefore, you are encouraged to apply as soon as possible to avoid disappointment. When we process your application for admission, we capture your details onto the UFS databases – if your details are not available, or if you have omitted it on your application form, you will not be admitted or be able to register. For this reason, it is very important to complete the application form in full and to stick to the closing dates. **Meeting the minimum admission requirements for your chosen/intended programme of study does not guarantee admission, as limited space is available in each programme.**
- National Senior Certificate: If you already have a National Senior Certificate (NSC), you must include a copy with your application form.
- Application: Make sure that you complete the application properly and attach all the required documents. An incomplete application, as well as outstanding documents, will delay your application process. Make sure that you complete the application form thoroughly, e.g., your personal details, school performance levels, the correct name of the school you are currently attending or have attended if you have already matriculated; if you need on-campus residence accommodation and/or financial aid, indicate this in the relevant section.
- Transferring students: If you transfer from another tertiary institution, you must include a certificate of conduct and an official study record from the previous tertiary institution with your application.
- International students: If you are from another country, you must attach your certified school-leaving certificate and relevant diplomas. Universities South Africa (USAf) Certificate of Exemption is required if you do not have an endorsed South African Senior Certificate.
 - You can apply at the UFS before receiving the exemption certificate from USAf.
 - If you are an international student who is currently in Grade 12, the UFS may make a conditional offer based on your final Grade 11 results.
 - If you do not have matriculation exemption, the Office for International Affairs will apply for the USAf certificate of exemption. You will have to pay the prescribed fee before the Office for International Affairs attends to the USAf exemption application. You must pay and submit the relevant documentation as soon as you receive the final Grade 12 results.



Any question,



Any time,



Any place...

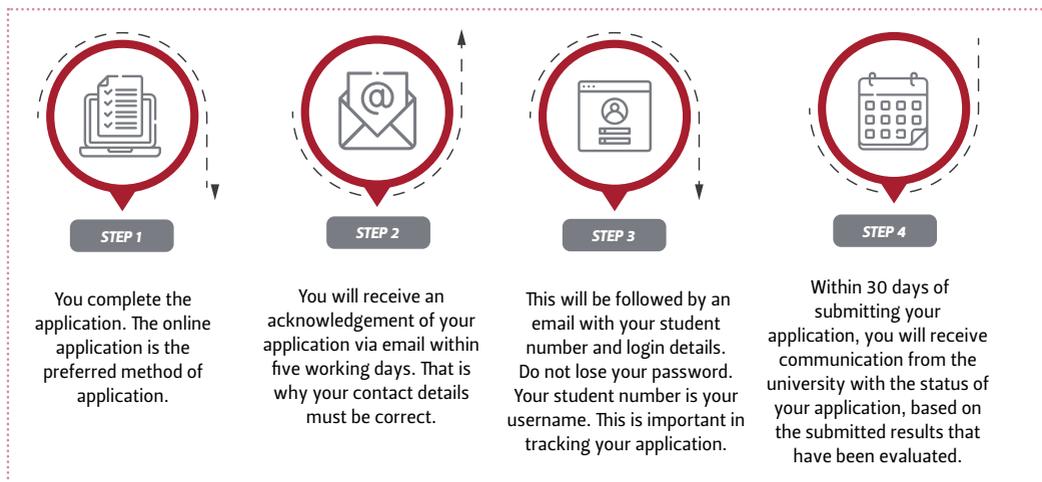
Send your question to
087 240 6370

Kovsie2Bot can help you.

ADMISSION TO STUDY AT THE UFS

Academic excellence is what the UFS is about – the higher your AP score, the better your chances of being chosen and finally admitted to study. Meeting the minimum admission requirements for your chosen/intended programme of study does not guarantee selection and admission, as all programmes have a limited number of spaces available. Applicants with the highest AP scores are chosen first, and the admission continues until all spaces have been filled. If you do not meet the minimum admission requirements for your intended/chosen programme of study, you will not be selected. Consult the faculty-specific admission requirements for all the programmes you qualify for and apply for the two programmes that best fit your personality, purpose, and passion.

Admission can be a complicated process. To make it easy to understand, the admission process can be summarised in the following steps:



You will be **CONDITIONALLY ADMITTED** based on your Grade 11 or equivalent results, subject to you meeting all the minimum requirements for the intended programme of study. Please note that conditional admission is not applicable to all the selection programmes in the Faculty of Health Sciences.

Your **FINAL ADMISSION** to the programme of your choice will depend on your final Grade 12 results. You will be notified of the university's admission decision immediately after your final Grade 12 results have been released by the Department of Education. Therefore, it is your responsibility to ensure that your contact details on your application form are correct.

Pay attention to the following important information:

- The UFS reserves the right to change the minimum requirements of each programme or any other information without notifying you.
- There are specific admission requirements that you should meet if you want to study at any South African university. If you finished school in or after 2008 and have a National Senior Certificate (NSC), you need to have a performance level of at least 4 (50%) in four (4) of the seven (7) subjects included in your NSC subject package.
- All admission requirements apply to first-year students in 2024.
- Admission to study at the UFS is dependent on the following:
 - Your application should meet all the minimum requirements for the programme
 - The programme must have available space and capacity to admit students
 - You have to submit valid school results with your application
- Applications for all non-selection programmes close on 30 September 2023.

An admission point (AP) consisting of seven levels is used. Points will be awarded for six academic modules.

Note: No points will be awarded for achievement levels lower than 30%:

Percentage	7 (90–100%)	7 (80–89%)	6 (70–79%)	5 (60–69%)	4 (50–59%)	3 (40–49%)	2 (30–39%)
AP	8	7	6	5	4	3	2

One point is awarded for Life Orientation (LO) from achievement Level 5 (60%) or higher.

CONFIDENTIALITY CLAUSE

The UFS confirms that all personal information provided in your application form will be treated confidentially and will not be sold to a third party or used for commercial or related purposes.

The UFS further confirms that your personal information will only be used for purposes relating to your potential relationship with the UFS as a student, including but not limited to the processing of your application to study at the UFS, effecting registration at the UFS, and for any communication purposes related to your application and/or registration to study at the UFS.

STUDENT SERVICE CENTRE

Our friendly agents are ready to assist you with the application, admission, and registration processes. Contact the agents if you require

- information on the admission requirements for any study programme;
- assistance to complete your application form (online or hard copy); and
- assistance with tracking the status of your application.

Contact: +27 51 401 9111 | E: studentadmin@ufs.ac.za

DISCLAIMER – IMPORTANT NOTICE

Kindly take note that this faculty programme booklet is aimed at prospective undergraduate students wishing to apply for a place at the University of the Free State (UFS) and who wish to start their studies at the UFS during the 2024 academic year. The faculty programme booklet accordingly describes and outlines the programmes and services offered by the UFS, as well as the minimum admission requirements for each programme, but must be read in conjunction with the policies, rules, and regulations of the UFS (as may be amended from time to time). In order to be considered for selection in a programme, an applicant is required to comply with the programme's minimum admission criteria in respect of the total AP score, subject-specific requirements (as determined per programme), and faculty/department-specific requirements. However, due to limited space, fulfilling all the minimum entry (admission) requirements does not guarantee acceptance to study at the UFS, or admission to any particular programme offered by the UFS.

The UFS makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in this faculty programme booklet is accurate and up to date at the time of going to press. However, it may be necessary for the UFS to make some changes to the information presented in the faculty programme booklet following publication – for example, where it is necessary to reflect changes in policy, practice, or theory, or if an accrediting body necessitates requirements to be amended. Furthermore, certain programmes may only be offered if there are a sufficient number of applicants.

The UFS undertakes to implement all reasonable steps to provide the services (including, but not limited to, presentation of the programmes) described in the faculty programme booklet. However, it does not guarantee the provision of such services or the presentation of any or all programmes described herein. Should circumstances beyond the control of the UFS interfere with its ability to provide the services or presentation of any programme described herein, the UFS undertakes to use all reasonable measures to minimise any disruption to the services.

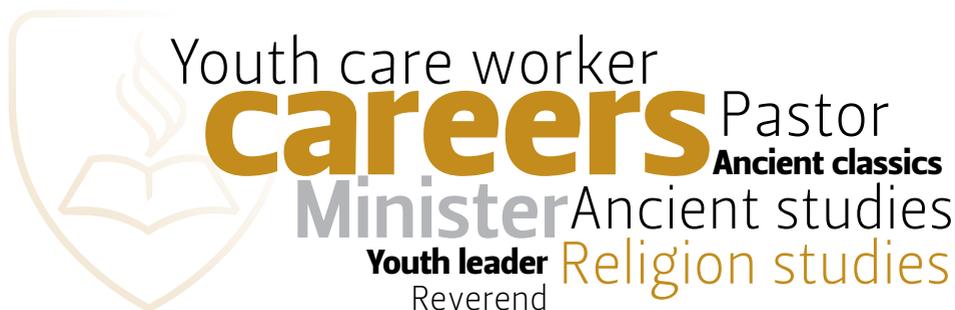
Furthermore, the UFS reserves the right to make amendments to admission requirements if and when necessary. It reserves the right to withdraw, wholly or in part, the delivery of programmes. Applicants and students in affected programmes will be informed before the commencement of their studies for the academic year concerned.

Note: The admission requirements as indicated below are guidelines. Meeting the minimum requirements for your chosen/intended programme of study does not guarantee admission, as limited space is available in each programme. Final selection and admission are subject to the availability of space, academic results, and other admission requirements where applicable.

2020 NATIONAL LIST OF OCCUPATIONS IN HIGH DEMAND

The Faculty of Theology and Religion offers programmes leading to employment in specific occupations that are in high demand in the South African labour market. High-demand occupations are those that show relatively high employment growth based on past, present, and future trends and that are currently in short supply (Government Gazette, 26 November 2020).

By registering for one of the programmes in the Faculty of Theology and Religion, you will contribute to the economic development and growth of South Africa and increase your chances of employment. Graduates of the UFS are highly sought after.



FACULTY-SPECIFIC PROGRAMMES AND REQUIREMENTS FOR UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

Abbreviations: From this point forward, we will use these abbreviations instead of the full terms:

- NSC: National Senior Certificate
- AP: Admission Point
- APC: Academic Plan Code
- N/A: Not Applicable
- NBT: Compulsory National Benchmark Tests
- AL: Academic Literacy Test (NBT)
- QL: Quantitative Literacy Test (NBT)

THE FOLLOWING PROGRAMMES ARE PRESENTED ONLY ON THE BLOEMFONTEIN CAMPUS:

Enquiries: Academic Advising Office: +27 51 401 2786 | theology@ufs.ac.za

Programme Description		Minimum Admission Requirements			
Programme	APC	AP	English	NBT	Campus
Higher Certificate in Theology HCert (Theology) (subject to selection)	BC911000	20	4 (50%)	N/A	BC
Bachelor of Divinity BDiv (subject to selection)	BC940300	28	4 (50%)	AL, QL*	BC

- Admission to the Higher Certificate in Theology or the Bachelor of Divinity is subject to selection.
- The Bachelor of Divinity is a qualification in Theology that focuses on professional ministry.
- *Although the Academic and Quantitative Literacy tests (NBT) are written, only the results of the Academic Literacy test are used during the registration process.

Advanced Diploma in Theology*	BC921500	<p>To be admitted to the Advanced Diploma in Theology, a student must have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> i. an appropriate diploma (minimum 360 credits, NQF Exit Level 6), or equivalent; or ii. an appropriate bachelor's degree (minimum 360 credits, NQF Exit Level 7); or iii. an equivalent qualification (minimum 360 credits, NQF Exit Level 6). <p>A person who does not qualify for admission to the Advanced Diploma in Theology but has applicable work experience, including formal and non-formal learning, can apply for admission in terms of the RPL process (Recognition of Prior Learning). Please contact the RPL Office for more information RPLOffice@ufs.ac.za</p>	BC
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The Faculty of Theology and Religion adheres to the general admission requirements of the University of the Free State. Admission requirements are subject to change.

EXTENDED CURRICULUM PROGRAMMES

Prospective students who do not meet the minimum requirements to enrol for mainstream programmes, may be considered for placement in the Extended Curriculum Programme (ECP). Placement is subject to the availability of space.

The ECP is designed to equip students who do not meet the minimum requirements with the necessary competencies to be successful in their studies. Academic support and skills development are integrated with regular academic work. To be considered for placement in the ECP, prospective students have to apply for the mainstream programmes.

HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY: HCert (Theology)

This one-year Higher Certificate in Theology offers an excellent introduction to the study of Christian ministry. It includes training in applicable skills designed to empower Christian leaders to make a meaningful impact in their faith communities. The course is designed for ministers, pastors, evangelists, members of church councils, Bible-study group leaders, Sunday-school teachers, youth leaders, chaplains, and anybody who wishes to learn more about the Christian ministry. The qualification also serves to provide students with the basic introductory knowledge, cognitive and conceptual tools, and practical techniques for further higher education studies in Theology.

Admission requirements

To be admitted to the Higher Certificate in Theology, a student must have a National Senior Certificate (from 2008) and an AP of at least 20, with a minimum performance Level 4 (50%) in English. **Note that admission to the Higher Certificate in Theology is subject to selection.**

Curriculum

The Higher Certificate in Theology requires 134 credits at NQF Level 5 and takes a minimum period of one academic year to complete. It consists of eight compulsory theology modules (128 credits), and one university module, TTCL1510 (6 credits).

The Higher Certificate in Theology is presented on a full-time (one academic year/two semesters) basis.

EIGHT COMPULSORY MODULES				
MODULE	NQF LEVEL	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER	CREDITS
Introduction to the Bible	5	TBIB1514		16
Interpreting and Proclaiming the Bible in Africa	5	TPIP1514		16
Pastoral Ministry in African Context	5	TPPM1514		16
Christian Leadership in an African Context	5	TPCL1514		16
Mission in Africa	5		TPMA1524	16
Contemporary Expression of Religiosity in Africa	5		TRER1524	16
Vitality of African Theology	5		THAT1524	16
Memory and the Christian Church	5		THMC1524	16
THEOLOGY MODULES				128

UNIVERSITY MODULES				
MODULE	NQF LEVEL	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER	CREDITS
Computer Literacy	5	TTCL1510		6
UNIVERSITY MODULE				6
TOTAL CREDITS IN THE HIGHER CERTIFICATE IN THEOLOGY				134

BACHELOR OF DIVINITY: BDiv

The four-year Bachelor of Divinity degree offers in-depth training to preachers, pastors, and church leaders for a professional career in Christian ministry. The degree is designed in consultation with churches and takes into account contemporary social issues such as justice, human dignity, violence, and ecology. The training is comprehensive, and students will be thoroughly grounded in disciplinary knowledge in Old and New Testament Studies, Historical and Constructive Theology, Church History, Church Polity, and Ethics. Students will also have the option to study the ancient languages, Greek and Hebrew. Practical ministry skills, such as pastoral care, youth work, preaching, leadership, and evangelism will also be acquired.

Students can also combine their studies in Theology with subjects from the Humanities (Psychology, Philosophy, Communication, Political Governance), Economic and Management Sciences (Management and Entrepreneurship), and Education to expand their career possibilities.

Admission requirements

To be admitted to the bachelor's programme, a student must be in possession of a National Senior Certificate (from 2008), an AP of 28, and a Level 4 (50%) in English. **Note that admission to the Bachelor of Divinity is subject to selection.**

Students who do not meet these requirements may be admitted to the Extended Curriculum Programme with an AP of 24 and the certificate as mentioned above.

A degree in Theology qualifies you for various career possibilities:

Minister, preacher, or pastor in a congregation • Missionary or evangelist (locally or internationally) • Chaplain in the SAPS, SANDF or Correctional Services • Youth worker • Journalist or broadcaster on religious topics • Project leader in community development • Bible translator • Pastoral counsellor • Researcher • Lifestyle coach/ Lecturer in Theology

* Some careers require special subjects, further specialisation, or other requirements.

BDiv Curriculum: First year

COMPULSORY MODULES				
MODULE	NQF LEVEL	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER	CREDITS
Introduction to the Study of Theology	5	TIST1512		8
Introduction to the Old Testament	5	TOTT1513		12
Introduction to the History of Christianity	5	THIS1512		8
Introduction to the New Testament	5		TNTT1523	12
Introduction to Practical and Missional Theology	5		TPMT1522	8
Introduction to the Christian Faith	5		TSYS1522	8
TOTAL CREDITS FROM COMPULSORY MODULES				56

ELECTIVE MODULES				
Students must select another 64 credits at a minimum NQF Level 5. The Faculty of Theology and Religion recommends both Hebrew and Greek (a total of 64 credits). However, both or one of either Hebrew or Greek may be exchanged for other modules. It is the responsibility of students to consider the module and venue timetable to avoid timetable clashes. Students are advised to choose the elective modules in accordance with the requirements of their own faith communities and/or career goals.				
MODULE	NQF LEVEL	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER	CREDITS
Grammar of Biblical Hebrew	5	HEBR1514		16
Grammar of Biblical Hebrew Prose	6		HEBR1624	16
Introduction to New Testament Greek	5	TGRK1508		32
TOTAL CREDITS FROM ELECTIVE MODULES				64

UNIVERSITY AND FOUNDATIONAL PROVISIONAL MODULES				
UFSS1504 and TTCL1510 are compulsory modules for students registering for a first qualification at the UFS. Students who have not obtained a UFS proficiency score of 64% or have not written the NBT, must register for EALH1508.				
MODULE	NQF LEVEL	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER	CREDITS
Undergraduate Core Curriculum	5	UFSS1504		16
Computer Literacy	5	TTCL1510		6
Academic Language Course in English	5	EALH1508		32
TOTAL CREDITS FROM UNIVERSITY AND FOUNDATIONAL PROVISIONAL MODULES				54
TOTAL CREDITS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE BDIV				174

BDiv EXTENDED CURRICULUM PROGRAMME: FIRST YEAR

COMPULSORY MODULES				
MODULE	NQF LEVEL	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER	CREDITS
Introduction to the Study of Theology	5	TIST1512		8
Introduction to the History of Christianity	5	THIS1512		8
Introduction to Practical and Missional Theology	5		TPMT1522	8
Introduction to the Christian Faith	5		TSYS1522	8
TOTAL CREDITS FROM COMPULSORY MODULES				32

UNIVERSITY AND FOUNDATIONAL PROVISIONAL MODULES				
MODULE	NQF LEVEL	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER	CREDITS
Computer Literacy	5	TTCL1510		6
Academic Language Course in English	5	EALH1508		32
Mathematical Literacy	5	MTDH1508		32

UNIVERSITY AND FOUNDATIONAL PROVISIONAL MODULES				
MODULE	NQF LEVEL	FIRST SEMESTER	SECOND SEMESTER	CREDITS
Skills and Competencies in Lifelong Learning	5	SCLL1508		32
TOTAL CREDITS FROM UNIVERSITY AND FOUNDATIONAL PROVISIONAL MODULES				102
TOTAL CREDITS IN THE FIRST YEAR OF THE BDIVECP				134

ADVANCED DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

This qualification offers an intensive, focused, and applied specialisation that meets the challenges and requirements of the ministry in different contexts. This is accompanied by a deep and systematic understanding of theological disciplines, theory, and practice.

MODULE	NQF LEVEL	SEMESTER ONE	SEMESTER TWO	CREDITS
Studies in the Ethics and Values of Religion	7	TRLS1714		16
Studies in Research Methodology in Theology	7	TRES1714		16
Studies in Church History and Church Polity	7	TELG1714		16
Studies in the Exposition, Message and Hermeneutics of the Old Testament	7	TOTT1734		16
Studies in Systematic Theology and Ethics	7		TSYS1724	16
Studies in the Exposition, Message and Hermeneutics of the New Testament	7		TNTT1744	16
Studies in Practical Theology and Ministry	7		TPHT1724	16
Studies in the Theology of Mission in Modern Africa	7		TMIS1724	16
TOTAL CREDITS				128

THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY AND RELIGION CONSISTS OF FOUR ACADEMIC DEPARTMENTS OFFERING THE FOLLOWING SUBJECTS:

OLD AND NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

Enquiries: Prof L Sutton: suttonl@ufs.ac.za | +27 51 401 3803

OLD TESTAMENT

The Old Testament is a library of books containing stories of people and their encounters with God; encounters that repeatedly gave meaning to their lives. When one embarks on a study of the Old Testament, one will find that its stories, poems, words of wisdom, heroic tales, and in some cases its narratives of misfortune – are gripping stuff. To gain an understanding of this part of the Bible, one will start on a journey of interesting and creative interplay between the world of the Old Testament and oneself as the present-day reader.

To get a grip on the richness of the Old Testament, one needs to study the texts of the Old Testament, exploring their fascinating literary and historical features. At the same time, one must also have insight into the main introductory questions and theological trends of the Old Testament; therefore, different theologies of and in the Old Testament are also studied.

The history of Israel, the cultural-historical background of the Old Testament, the geography of Israel, and the hermeneutics of the Old Testament help to open up the meaningful messages of the Old Testament.

NEW TESTAMENT

In the New Testament discipline, we attempt to thoroughly understand the 27 writings of the New Testament. We do this by placing each piece of writing within the original situation in which it was written. In this way, we do not only attempt to understand what the first author(s) tried to communicate to a particular group of Christians, but also what the Lord wants to communicate to modern believers. Therefore, we investigate issues such as, 'Who was/were the author(s) of a particular writing?'; 'When was it written?'; 'What background information is vital for understanding the writings of the New Testament?'; 'What methods can help us to understand the New Testament adequately?'; 'How did it happen that these 27 writings became part of the New Testament?'; and 'How can one formulate the message of the New Testament writings in the most adequate way?'

In Greek, we empower students to unlock the richness of the Greek New Testament and other Early Christian literature against the background of the world in which they originated. During undergraduate studies, we introduce students to essential concepts and principles of Greek grammar, textual criticism, rhetoric (the 'art of persuasion'), and other aspects, enabling them to read, analyse, and interpret the texts efficiently while observing these principles. Being able to read and analyse texts from the New Testament in its original language, definitely enriches a student's experience of exegesis. We also introduce students to a selection of online resources and learning tools (including mobile apps). These tools provide support during the learning process and put the Greek texts and translations in the palm of their hands, with a variety of resources to analyse the texts at their fingertips. Students who wish to pursue postgraduate studies in Greek can register for our exciting new honours degree in New Testament Greek and other Early Christian literature.

HISTORICAL AND CONSTRUCTIVE THEOLOGY

Enquiries: Prof H van der Westhuizen: hvdw@ufs.ac.za | +27 51 401 9904

SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY

This academic field of study entails a number of disciplines, e.g., Encyclopaedia, Symbolics, Systematic Theology, Ethics, and Apologetics.

Encyclopaedia attends to the development of Theology as a scientific discipline and to the contemporary challenges for the public university.

Symbolics focuses on the phenomenon of the creeds and confession of the church from the Early Church to the 20th Century.

Systematic Theology studies the content of the Christian faith in a coherent manner. Questions pertaining to the faith of the church, e.g., about God, salvation, and the church, are addressed. This is done from various perspectives, e.g., Biblical, Reformational, Contemporary, and African.

Human behaviour in terms of certain norms is the subject field of Ethics. Contemporary dilemmas in relation to social justice, sexuality, and digital communication are studied.

In the subject of Apologetics, challenges from modernism and postmodernism to the truth of the Christian faith are addressed, as well as how theology should respond to that.

CHURCH HISTORY AND POLITY

Ecclesiology mainly consists of two subjects: Church History and Church Polity.

Church History is subdivided into general (from 33 AD until the present) and South African church history, and includes the history of missions, the history of the relation between churches, and the development of the doctrine of the church. This history is studied with theological insight and a proper knowledge of the discipline of church history writing.

Church Polity is studying issues such as the offices in the church, meetings in the church, i.e., synods, church discipline, and the relationship between church and state and church and education. We focus on two sides of this coin: Biblical principles for the governance of the church, and how this was addressed throughout history.

PRACTICAL AND MISSIONAL THEOLOGY

Enquiries: Prof J Meyer: meyerj1@ufs.ac.za | Tel: +27 51 401 3851

PRACTICAL THEOLOGY

The Word of God for the people of today – this is the world that Practical Theology leads you into. The study field of Practical Theology covers four terrains of study:

- Homiletics and liturgy, where attention is given to preaching and the worship service.
- Pastoral care has to do with caring for people, from individual to family problems, to community challenges.
- Congregational studies and leadership investigate the environment and community where the faith community is called to make a difference; the question is asked – what happens in congregations.
- Faith formation looks at the facilitation of our faith, especially to young people within a new and challenging context.

On a postgraduate level, a structured programme is presented at honours and master's levels. This is a unique qualification which may open doors for students at different levels. Read more on the website at www.ufs.ac.za/praxis

MISSIOLOGY

Being a missionary is to spread the glorious Good News of Jesus Christ into the world. With us, you will learn what the Bible has to say about missions; what people believe about God and the gods, and how a Christian should proclaim the Good News in a comprehensive manner. The needs of people are confronted, for example, poverty and HIV/Aids. A student will also learn how the gospel can be realised and expressed in the congregation to reach others. The inspiring story of how the gospel was spread throughout the ages is also told. The challenge to become personally involved in mission work is posed, and methods for reaching people in the best possible way are determined and explained.

RELIGION STUDIES

Enquiries: Prof Joel Mokhoathi: MokhoathiJ@ufs.ac.za | 051 401 3272

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Although Christianity has a significant presence in South Africa, the country is celebrated as a pluralistic and multi-religious society, embracing various faiths. South Africa serves as a melting pot of religions, each contributing to its diverse cultural tapestry. The field of Religion Studies delves into the sociological examination of the major religions and their practices within the nation. As part of this subject, these dominant religions are explored thematically, offering insights into their beliefs, customs, and social impacts in the South African context.

For theological students, the study of other religions becomes an essential endeavor to equip them with a deeper understanding and foster meaningful engagements with diverse belief systems. Whether it be for facilitating discussions or undertaking missionary work, this broadened perspective fosters respect and empathy for people from various religious backgrounds. Religion Studies, therefore, opens up an array of religions, nurturing a more informed and inclusive approach in the minds of theological scholars.

In the realm of Religion Education, the focus of Religion Studies shifts to providing a foundational introduction to different religions. The course also emphasizes effective ways to engage with students in primary and high schools, promoting a harmonious atmosphere of learning and understanding. By nurturing an atmosphere of open-mindedness and curiosity about different faiths, Religion Education endeavors to create a tolerant and inclusive educational environment for students from all walks of life.

HEBREW

Enquiries: Prof CL Miller-Naudé: millercl@ufs.ac.za | 051 401 9385

Biblical Hebrew is the language of the Old Testament and also provides both the background and the central religious concepts for the New Testament. Through an understanding of Hebrew within its cultural context in ancient Israel and the ancient Mediterranean world, it is possible to read and understand the message of the Bible – Old Testament, New Testament, and Apocrypha – in new and insightful ways. By reading the Old Testament in Hebrew, pastors, theologians, and Bible translators are empowered to understand the Old Testament first-hand. We have developed innovative teaching methods, which take into account the different linguistic and cultural backgrounds of our students, so that the language of the Old Testament and its most important theological concepts are accessible to everyone. Students are assisted in preparing the Hebrew passages that will be studied in Old Testament exegesis classes, resulting in a coherent learning experience in language, exegesis, and theology.

For further enquiries about these courses, please contact or write to the faculty.

Office of the Dean

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The UFS Faculty of Theology and Religion is the place to be – Join our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/UFS.theology/> to see what we are all about!

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