

Undergraduate Faculty Brochure

2024

HOLY BIBLE



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

**Faculty of Theology
and Religion**

Fakulteit Teologie en Religie
Lekala la Thutatumelo le Bodumedi

The closing date for programmes
in this Faculty is **30 June**.

Make today matter

www.up.ac.za

Message from the Dean

Some years ago, Henry Tappan, President of the University of Michigan, wrote:

'Of all mere human institutions there are none so important and mighty in their influence as Universities; because when rightly constituted, they are made up of the most enlightened, and the choicest spirits of our race; they embrace the means of all human culture, and they act directly upon the fresh and up-springing of a nation. To them must be traced science, literature and art; the furniture of religious faith; the lights of industry; the moving forces of civilisation; and the unity of humanity.'

Prof Jerry Pillay
Dean: Faculty of Theology and Religion



The above quote clearly indicates that the purpose of universities has never been understood simply in terms of ideals for the inner life of the scholarly and teaching community. Instead, universities embody the desire to make significant contributions to the well-being of society as a whole. In other words, the purpose of the university is ultimately defined in relation to a vision of achieving the good of society as a whole—the concept of the common good.

Theology and religion, as taught at universities, therefore play a vital role in the construction and development of society and the world. Moltmann states that Christian theology must be contemporary theology, in the positive sense of the word, and must 'share the sufferings of this present time' (of which COVID-19 is a good example) with the whole of creation. In every age, Christian theology must find its identity anew. The dialectical processes of adjustment and reformation, and discovering relevance and identity are essential, which is precisely how our Faculty approaches teaching, learning and research.

The Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria is one of the leading theological institutions in Africa and is known for its relevant teaching and learning programmes, and for its community engagement. As far as teaching and learning are concerned, the Faculty continues to pursue excellence as it seeks to address current issues and struggles, such as decolonisation, Africanisation and inclusivity. In our teaching, we use different methods to encourage critical thinking, investigation, interactive and participatory learning, hybrid learning, alternate forms of assessment and the use of technology.

We have noted that these days many students do not study theology and religion to enter into full-time ordained ministry. Our teaching modules are therefore designed to incorporate non-theological electives and we are committed to assisting those students who wish to prepare themselves for employment in other possible fields of choice.

We have all the necessary structures in place to ensure student success and our well-qualified, experienced and dedicated lecturers are committed to assisting students at all levels of study. During the

COVID-19 pandemic we were forced to go online in 2020, but we have now returned to hybrid learning. Although our Faculty gives preference to in-person teaching and learning since learning is strengthened in a variety of ways by being with others, we will continue with the hybrid model until the COVID situation changes.

The Faculty offers excellent postgraduate programmes with outstanding supervisors. We are blessed with credible and reputable academic researchers, many of whom have received NRF ratings. Our researchers undertake cutting-edge research on relevant, contextual, interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary levels, acknowledging that such work cannot be done in ivory towers, but is only possible through lifechanging engagement with society.

Our Centre for Faith and Community is making significant contributions by practising theology in and with the community and contributing to discussions and programmes that address homelessness, urban theology and development, sustainable development, etc. As part of its ecumenical engagement and endeavour, the Faculty is involved in interreligious dialogue and has established significant international research partnerships on topics such as religious fundamentalism and violence.

Saint Anselm of Canterbury defined theology as 'faith seeking understanding'. In a world characterised by enormous complexities, racism, gender injustice, empires, economic and ecological injustices and other global struggles, we need to constantly contend with our understanding of God and reality. The Faculty of Theology and Religion facilitates life-affirming theologies, nurtures transformative leaders, promotes justice and peace and prepares students for a changing environment and world. Regardless of whether you are training for ministry in the church or the marketplace, this is the right place to be!

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Undergraduate programmes

General admission regulations that apply to all prospective students

1. The admission requirements and general information provided in this Faculty brochure are applicable to students who apply for admission to the University of Pretoria with a National Senior Certificate (NSC) or an Independent Examination Board (IEB) qualification.
2. The following persons will be considered for admission to a first bachelor's degree at the University of Pretoria:
 - Candidates who have a certificate that is deemed by the University to be equivalent to the required National Senior Certificate (NSC) with bachelor's degree endorsement;
 - Candidates who are graduates from another tertiary institution or have been granted the status of a graduate of such an institution, and
 - Candidates who are graduates of another faculty at the University of Pretoria.
3. Grade 11 results are used for the conditional admission of prospective students, but final admission will depend on the NSC (or equivalent) qualification and results.
4. Candidates must also comply with the specific subject and level requirements and the minimum Admission Point Score (APS) for their chosen degree programmes.
5. The APS calculation is done by using the NCS 1 to 7 scale of achievement. It is based on a candidate's achievement in six recognised 20-credit subjects. The highest APS that can be achieved is 42. Life Orientation is a 10-credit subject and is excluded from the calculation when determining the APS. The following subject rating scores are used for calculating the APS:

Admission Point Score (APS) Conversion

The following subject rating scores are used for calculating the APS for NSC/IEB:

Rating code	Rating	Marks %
7	Outstanding achievement	80–100%
6	Meritorious achievement	70–79%
5	Substantial achievement	60–69%
4	Adequate achievement	50–59%
3	Moderate achievement	40–49%
2	Elementary achievement	30–39%
1	Not achieved	0–29%

NSC – National Senior Certificate (completed Grade 12 in or after 2008)

IEB – Independent Examination Board

6. Except in cases where modules or programmes require the use of a language other than English, all modules will be presented in English, which is the University's official language of tuition, communication and correspondence.
7. Minimum requirements for admission to the relevant programmes are set out in the table below.
8. Applicants with qualifications other than NSC and IEB should refer to the following publications:
 - The *Undergraduate Programme Information 2024: Qualifications other than the NSC/IEB brochure*, which is available at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission information.
 - The *Newcomer's Guide: 2023 brochure of the International Cooperation Division*, which is available at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission information.
9. **School of Tomorrow (SOT)** and **Accelerated Christian Education (ACE)**: The University of Pretoria no longer accepts qualifications awarded by these institutions.
10. **General Education Development (GED)**: South African GED graduates who graduated up to 2019 may be considered for admission, provided they qualify for an exemption certificate issued by USAf and comply with both University admission and Faculty subject requirements. South African GED graduates who graduated after 2019 cannot be considered for admission to UP as the diploma is not accredited by USAf and will not be considered for exemption. Applicants from the USA who completed the GED may apply for a Foreign Conditional Exemption Certificate issued by USAf and accompanied by their SAT/TOEFL/IELTS results.
11. **National Certificate (Vocational) (NCV) Level 4**: The University of Pretoria may consider NCV candidates, provided they meet the exemption for bachelor's status criteria and the programme requirements.

Note: Refer to the UP Institutional Admissions Policy as well as the General Academic Regulations and Student Rules (<https://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/2024/rules/document/general-academic-regulations-and-student-rules-2024>)

CLOSING DATES: All study programmes at the University of Pretoria are number-limited. You are encouraged to submit your application as soon as possible after 1 April.

- The closing date for the Faculty of Veterinary Science programmes is 31 May.
- The closing date for all other study programmes is 30 June.

APPLICATION STATUS

- Apply with your final Grade 11 (or equivalent) results.
- Conditional admission into a study programme is based on academic merit and successful candidates will be notified accordingly.
- Please note that meeting the minimum academic requirements does not guarantee admission.
- Unsuccessful candidates will be notified after 30 June.
- Please check your application status regularly on the UP Student Portal at www1.up.ac.za.
- Final admission will be based on the applicant's final school-year NSC or equivalent results.

Undergraduate programmes

Faculty-specific admission regulations

- Applicants who indicate Theology as a first or second choice will be considered, but those who indicate it as their second choice may have to submit a motivation.

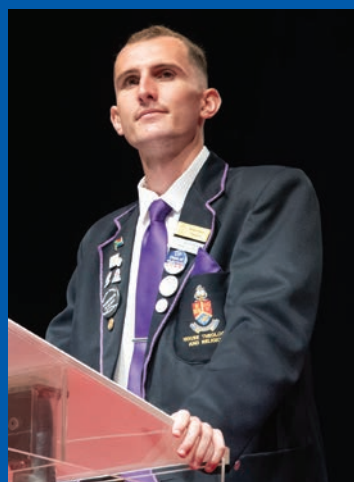
University of Pretoria website www.up.ac.za/theology

Transferring and Returning students

For more information visit www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-theology-and-religion/programmes/programme/06130007/year/2023.

Minimum admission requirements

Programmes	Minimum requirements for NSC/IEB for 2024	
	Achievement level	APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	
Bachelor of Divinity (BDiv) (for admission to MDiv studies) [4 years]	4	28
Careers: Ministers, pastors, priests, preachers in certain denominations, missionaries and youth counsellors. Other possibilities include ethics consultants to businesses. Theological studies can be enriching for people in various other vocations. Prospective students who are interested in ordained ministry should discuss their intention to register for this programme with their church leadership.		
Bachelor of Theology (BTh) [3 years]	4	28
Careers: Ministers, pastors, priests, preachers in certain denominations, missionaries and youth counsellors. Other possibilities include ethics consultants to businesses. Theological studies can be enriching for people in various other vocations. Prospective students who are interested in ordained ministry should discuss their intention to register for this programme with their church leadership.		
University Diploma in Theology (DipTheol) [3 years]	3	24
Careers: Ministers, pastors, priests, lay preachers in certain denominations, missionaries and youth counsellors. Candidates should consult their church leadership on which programme would best suit their aims. The Diploma in Theology is intended for candidates who have completed the NSC/IEB (or equivalent), but without the required university admission.		



‘The Faculty of Theology and Religion—the place that became my home.

After signing up for my field of study, I wondered whether I had made the right choice. During the first few days I felt rather lost, but once I had been exposed to what the Faculty and university life in general have to offer, I knew with certainty that I could not have made a better decision.

I feel privileged to be part of this Faculty and I now know why it is the best in Africa (in my opinion, the best in the world). Here in the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria you are not just a number, but a person who matters.

Be part, be present and enjoy the journey!’

Jacques Heymans – Fourth-year Bachelor of Divinity candidate

Undergraduate programmes

Why study at the Faculty of Theology and Religion?

The Faculty of Theology and Religion is renowned for its commitment to the following:



Christian scriptures

This remains our central point of reference for theology.



Spirituality

We place great importance on personal faith formation.



Practical skills for training in ministry

Learn to preach, serve and lead.



Contextual and relevant teaching and learning

Some classes take place on city streets.



Academic excellence

Our standards of education are comparable to the best in the world.



Lecturers

Lecturers are noted academics and also respected church leaders.



Student life

Theology students have access to the many benefits of life on campus and in Hatfield.



International contacts

Students can benefit from our broad network of international partnerships.

People study Theology and Religion for various reasons, and not only to make it their profession. Some find it to be a fascinating field that they would like to explore, whereas others search for spiritual growth through study, or may want to gain insights that will help them to function more effectively in the workplace. The Faculty also offers programmes that will benefit students who do not necessarily want to become ministers, but would like to enrich their lives and faith experiences.

There are many advantages to enriching one's study in a particular field with insights and applications from Theology and Religion. By including modules from this discipline in other areas of study, such as computer science, engineering, languages, psychology, social work and teaching, graduates will enter their chosen careers as better equipped and more fully developed individuals.



'What I appreciate most about studying in our Faculty is that we are all treated like family. When I first arrived at the University, I felt lost and had no idea of what to expect, but as soon as I entered the Faculty space I felt welcome. In the Faculty of Theology and Religion we treat each other with respect and kindness and truly find a home away from home.'

This Faculty upholds values such as unity, compassion and inclusivity and no-one is left behind. Its magnificent natural surroundings, its depth of character, traditions and variety, and its commitment to academic quality all combine to create an exceptional academic environment.'

Mahlatse Mathabathe – Third-year Bachelor of Theology candidate

Postgraduate programmes

What does the programme entail?

The Theology and Religion programme deals with the fundamental questions of life:

- How do faith and religion influence people's lives and society?
- How does one approach ethical and moral questions in the workplace?
- How do theological insights promote good human resource practices?
- How does one cultivate ecological sensitivity and awareness?
- How do Christians relate to laws?
- How do religious values contribute to peace and good human relations?
- Can crime be stopped by appealing to people's beliefs and values?
- What is the meaning and purpose of life?
- Where does one find answers to the most profound life questions?
- How does one gain a better understanding of humanity to make a difference in the world?
- What kind of leaders are needed to shape society and the world?

In the case of students who feel called to work in churches as ministers, pastors, priests, lay preachers, missionaries or youth workers, studying Theology and Religion is the way to go. Others find their calling in serving the community as social workers, development workers, chaplains, psychologists, teachers, journalists or writers, or become engineers, lawyers or entrepreneurs, but regardless of the professions people choose, studying Theology and Religion will contribute to a greater understanding of humanity and society.

Undergraduate programmes in Theology and Religion

The five main components of the study of theology and religion focus on questions about the Bible and life.

New Testament and related literature

In the New Testament, the story of Jesus is told and elaborated on from several perspectives. In New Testament Studies, the focus is on the books of the New Testament and on the first- and the second-century Mediterranean context in which they originated.

Old Testament and Hebrew Scriptures

The Old Testament is concerned with God's relationship with Israel and His involvement with humanity and creation. In Old Testament Studies, we study the books of the Old Testament and the life settings of ancient Israel. From the Old Testament, we learn that ancient Israelites engaged with issues such as suffering and love, and how to live in the presence of God in different circumstances.

Practical Theology and Mission Studies

Practical Theology focuses on what Christians do, in other words, how they experience and express their faith (faith actions). The topics studied in this field include worship as lived religion and preaching, the meaning of symbols and symbolic acts, helping people in crisis, teaching faith and faith formation, and understanding the world in which we live.

Religion Studies

Religion Studies (formerly known as Biblical Studies) is a life-enriching programme open to anyone interested in religion. Students from many diverse fields, for example engineering, architecture, music, political science, law and fine arts, choose to broaden their vision by taking this module. It addresses questions such as the following: Why are people religious? What did ancient people believe? How do we understand and respect our neighbours from other religious denominations?

Systematic and Historical Theology

Systematic and Historical reflection on theology consists of both integrated and specialised themes. With regard to historical reflection, it covers not only the history of the Christian church and the lives of its significant figures, from Saint Augustine to Saint Aquinas, and from John Calvin to Martin Luther, but also looks at how different Christian traditions are structured in the modern era. With regard to systematic reflection, it covers faith (in God and as a relationship) and beliefs (in relation to themes such as creation and scripture, Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation and the future), faith communities and their lives of faith, and societal challenges (ethical themes).

Contact information

Ms Troné Stander

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Email trone.stander@up.ac.za

Postgraduate programmes in Theology and Religion

Bachelor of Theology Honours – BThHons

The purpose of this programme is to provide graduate students with specialised knowledge, skills and competence in particular fields of theology at the postgraduate level.

Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and Ministry

The Postgraduate Diploma aims to offer advanced theological knowledge and practical skills that meet the needs of the ministry. Church-specific training and formation are offered in cooperation with the church partners involved.

Postgraduate Diploma in Theology

Theological studies can be pursued by candidates who already have tertiary qualifications equivalent to any bachelor's degree in a field other than theology. Students can specialise in any of the five theological disciplines and, after completion of this programme, will be able to complete an MTh in the subject in which they specialised.

Master of Divinity – MDiv

The MDiv builds on the BDiv programme or the previous four-year BTh programme. It is a coursework master's degree programme in general theology that covers all five theological disciplines and focuses on advanced theological knowledge and practical skills.

Master of Theology – MTh

This programme offers students with a four-year BDiv, a BThHons or an equivalent qualification an opportunity for theological specialisation and research at master's level. They can choose between a programme with coursework and a mini-dissertation or a research master's that requires the completion of a dissertation. The coursework modules offer students an opportunity to acquire specialist skills in a particular discipline.

Doctor of Philosophy – PhD

The programme line that starts with the three-year BTh and continues via the BThHons to MTh, or the programme line that starts with the four-year BDiv and continues with the MTh is concluded with a PhD, which is awarded for the achievement of highly specialised knowledge and expertise based on research.

Infographic

Pathways to the career you always wanted

By Dana Mahan

Where can a degree in theology and religion take me?

The short answer is: Almost anywhere! Our graduates use their training to work as pastors in churches, educators in schools, leaders in community organisations and therapists at counselling agencies. Whether you have your eye on a career that requires the ability to speak publicly, think critically or write effectively, a qualification in theology and religion can take you there!



The Faculty of Theology and Religion, where purpose in life meets gainful employment.



Meet Tanya

Tanya used what she learned as a student of theology and religion to become an internationally recognised academic.



Meet Mpho

Mpho Mehlomakulu has used what he learned as a student of theology and religion to become an agent of youth empowerment.



Meet Wayne

Wayne used what he learned as a student of theology and religion to become an advocate for refugees and the homeless.

Article

Learn how to transform your community

By Nicola Smith

We all know that South African communities are unequal. While some are resource-rich, have good infrastructure, and access sources of livelihood and wellbeing, others are resource-poor and lack suitable and secure housing, good schools, reliable health infrastructure, water and sanitation, and food security.

The poverty, exclusion and violence experienced by some communities should not be seen as inevitable since proof exists that some communities have succeeded in organising their limited resources and assets, mobilising their people and brokering investment from outside to slowly (re)build the infrastructure that is lacking, thus giving people access to good opportunities and helping to set them free.

The National Department of Social Development is committed to making community development a profession. In the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria, we are now rolling out a community development trajectory that will contribute credits to a community development qualification.

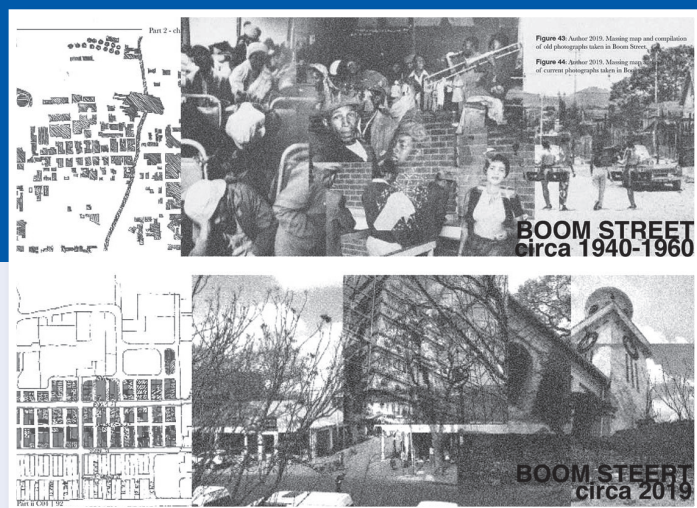
To obtain the maximum number of credits towards this qualification, students will need to make sure that they register for the right modules. They will still need to take the usual modules required for a qualification in theology but will also be equipped for a career dedicated to helping people to improve their lives and homes and transform their communities.

The teaching and learning approach adopted by the Faculty of Theology and Religion fuses theory, community analysis, hands-on practice, spirituality, engaged research, and personal formation through modules like Introduction to Community Development, Urban and Community Immersions, Critical Urban Readings, Alternative Urban Imaginaries and Action Research.

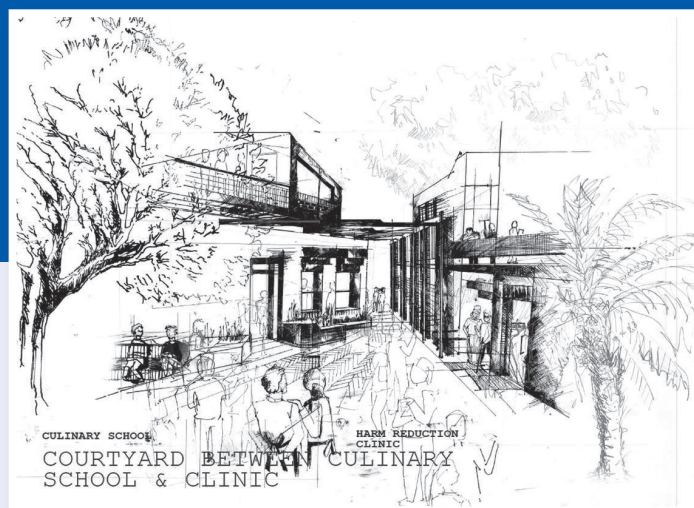
If you have ever wanted to give back by supporting others, to find meaning in your work and feel that your life has a purpose, a career in community development would be your best choice and a course offered by the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria will help you to realise your dream!

Contact information for the Centre for Faith and Community

Tel +27 (0)12 420 4952
Email carusta.vandermerwe@up.ac.za
Address Theology Building,
 Room 1-15, Hatfield Campus



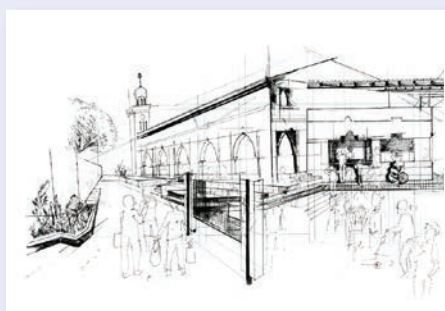
↑ Boom Street (then and now)



↑ Courtyard between school and clinic



↑ Integrating boundaries



↑ Internal courtyard



↑ Recreational courtyard

THE LEARNING MIX MATTERS

LEARN AND GROW THE HYBRID WAY

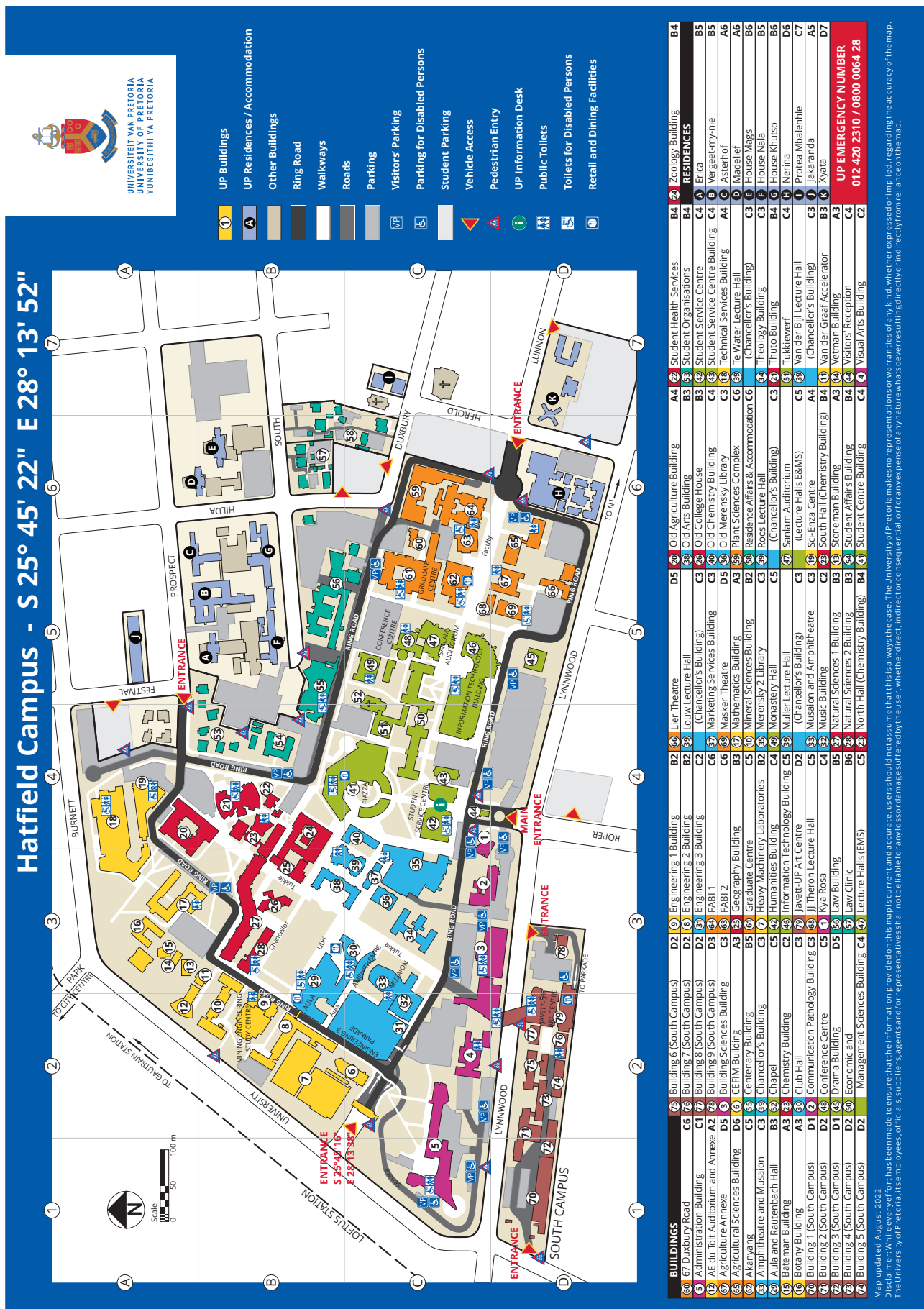
Today...
understanding faith in context



When students come to study Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria, they are surrounded by a wealth of resources, from mentors to advisors, tutors to lecturers, each one dedicated to helping them reach their goals in the classroom and beyond.

Tomorrow...
transforming communities

Hatfield Campus map





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