



UNIVERSITEIT VAN PRETORIA
UNIVERSITY OF PRETORIA
YUNIBESITHI YA PRETORIA

Faculty of Theology and Religion

Fakulteit Teologie en Religie
Lekala la Thutatumelo le Bodumedi

www.up.ac.za/theology



Note: The minimum admission requirements reflected in this brochure are subject to changes in regulations relating to COVID-19. Amendments will reflect in the digital version of this brochure, which can be downloaded from www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Faculty brochures.

2023

UNDERGRADUATE FACULTY BROCHURE

Make today matter

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 finally 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, as well as 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.

Furthermore, our teaching modules are designed to incorporate non-theological electives to enable students to also train for careers in fields other than theology. 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.

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 life-changing engagement with society.

Our Centre for Faith and Community is making significant contributions in *doing* theology *in* and *with* the community, 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 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 grapple with our understanding of God and reality consistently. 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

Important information for all prospective students for 2023

- The admission requirements and general information in this brochure apply to students who apply for admission to the University of Pretoria with a National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Independent Examination Board (IEB) qualifications.
- Applicants with qualifications other than the abovementioned should refer to:
 - Brochure: Undergraduate Programme Information 2023: Qualifications other than the NSC and IEB**, available at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission information.
 - Brochure: Newcomers Guide 2022**, available at www.up.ac.za/programmes > Undergraduate > Admission information.
 - Website:** www.up.ac.za/international-cooperation-division.
- School of Tomorrow (SOT) and Accelerated Christian Education (ACE):** The University of Pretoria no longer accepts qualifications awarded by these institutions.
- 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 university admission requirements, as well as 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 accompanied by their SAT/TOEFL/IELTS results.
- 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.

Important faculty-specific information on undergraduate programmes for 2023

The closing date for all selection programmes is **30 June 2022**. The University of Pretoria has decided not to set a specific closing date for applications to non-selection programmes for 2023. Applications will close when the available study spaces are filled (**close on availability of space**). Once the available number of study places for a specific programme are filled, no further applications for that particular programme will be considered. All applicants are therefore strongly advised and encouraged to submit their applications as soon as possible after 1 April 2022 and to check the application site (UP Student Portal) regularly.

- The following persons will be considered for admission: Candidates who have a certificate that is deemed by the University to be equivalent to the required National Senior Certificate (NSC) with university 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.
- Life Orientation is excluded in the calculation of the APS.

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

Programmes	Minimum requirements for NSC and IEB for 2023	
	Achievement level	APS
Bachelor of Divinity (BDiv) (for admission to MDiv studies) [4 years] Close on availability of space: As soon as the number of places available for this programme are filled, it will be closed for further applications.	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] Close on availability of space: As soon as the number of places available for this programme are filled, it will be closed for further applications.	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] Close on availability of space: As soon as the number of places available for this programme are filled, it will be closed for further applications.	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 NSC/IEB (or equivalent) but without the required university admission.		



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:

- **The Bible:** This remains the central point of reference for theology.
- **Spirituality:** Faith formation is of great importance.
- **Practical skills training in ministry**
- **Contextual and relevant teaching and learning**
- **Academic excellence:** The Faculty's 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 participate fully in student activities such as tours, Rag, camps, sports, serenades and many more.
- **International contacts:** Students can benefit from the Faculty's many international connections.

People study theology for various reasons, and not only to make it their profession. Some find it a fascinating field that they would like to explore, whereas others search for spiritual enrichment 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 experience.

There are many advantages to enriching one's study in a particular field with insights and applications from theology. By including modules from theology 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 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?

Some students feel called to work in churches as ministers, pastors, priests, lay preachers, missionaries or youth workers, and for them studying theology is the way to go. With continued studies, others find their calling in serving the community as social workers, development workers, chaplains, psychologists, teachers, journalists or writers. Others will become engineers, lawyers or entrepreneurs. For all, studying theology 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 diverse fields, such as engineering, architecture, music, political science, law, fine arts and many more, 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**
The 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 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).

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Student contributions



‘I have always been passionate about helping the poor, the marginalised and the unheard, so in Grade 12, I applied to study at UP. At first, I was a little sceptical about enrolling for a programme in the Faculty of Theology and Religion, but by the end of my first-year I realised how many opportunities this Faculty offers.

Employment opportunities exist not only in churches and in the mission field, but there are also a range of opportunities in various communities and other social spaces.

A qualification in this Faculty enables one to undertake both theoretical and practical work. Enrolling for a programme here, has definitely been one of best decisions I have ever made.’

Thato Molepo



‘I remember the first day I went to the Faculty of Theology and Religion. Everyone was so welcoming and friendly. At that moment, I knew that I was home. The highlight of being a student has to be the first-year camp, where I met interesting and different people that helped shape me.

I have grown so much, especially mentally. I have learnt a lot of leadership skills in my executive committee journey. The lecturers are very kind and understanding. I also love how we treat each other as family to a point where cleaners and other staff members greet and have to be greeted with kindness.

Along my journey, I have learnt to work under pressure, to work in a group with other people and to always believe that anything I put my mind to can be done because of all the academic support I get from the Faculty.’

Lesego Mashaba

Postgraduate programmes

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.

Contact information

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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

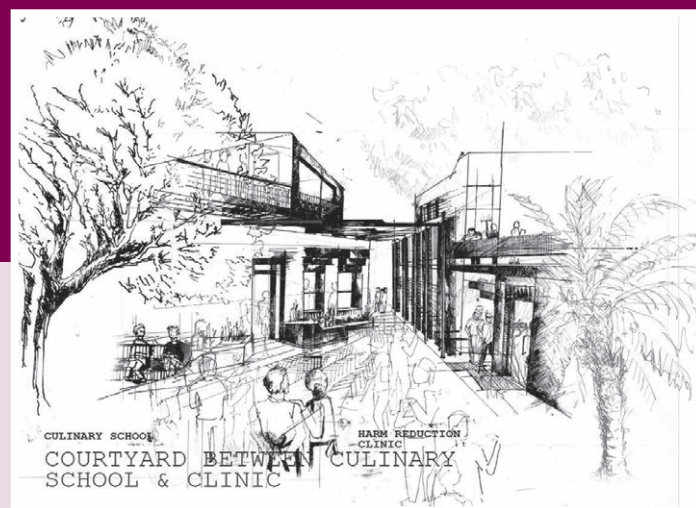
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↑ Boom Street (then and now)



↑ Courtyard between school and clinic



↑ Integrating boundaries



↑ Internal courtyard



↑ Recreational courtyard

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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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