

# Undergraduate Faculty Brochure

2025



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](http://www.up.ac.za)

## Message from the Dean

Welcome to the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria, one of the most well-respected and highly rated faculties of its kind in the world, as well as one of the oldest and most established in South Africa.

**Prof RS Letšosa**  
**Dean: Faculty of Theology and Religion**



Although we are focused on Christian theology and founded on the Christian religion, we present a context for understanding and appreciating many different faith traditions. By learning about cultural and spiritual diversity, as well as how to be of service to humanity through the universal values of peace, love, tolerance, kindness and welfare in society, we seek to add value to our world.

This is how we live the UP Way.

The UP Way is how we provide our students with high-quality teaching and learning support systems, which help folks just like you to graduate on time as creative and critical thinkers, ready for the world beyond university with the skills and knowledge needed to land your first job or start your career. The UP Way is how we positively impact God's created order by transforming lives and uplifting society.

Our faculty is your home if you want to understand how different religious ideas came about and how different faiths can change the world to make it a better place for all. We ask exciting questions, unravel new ones through research, and debate the merits of many ideas in an engaging and welcoming space.

By joining the Faculty of Theology and Religion at UP, you can become more than you ever imagined, an agent of transformation and a graduate who embodies respect and service, charity and goodwill toward all.

We hope you will consider joining our beloved community one day soon!

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FACULTY  
WEBSITE:



POSTGRADUATE  
WEBSITE:



# Undergraduate programmes

## General admission regulations that apply to all prospective students

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Candidates must also comply with the specific subject and achievement level requirements and the minimum Admission Point Score (APS) for their chosen degree programmes.
- The APS calculation is done by using the NSC 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 for NSC/IEB:

### Admission Point Score (APS) Conversion

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

- 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.
- Minimum requirements for admission to the relevant programmes are set out in the minimum admission requirements table in this brochure.
- Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into a programme.
- Applicants with qualifications other than NSC and IEB should refer to the following publications:
  - The *International undergraduate prospectus 2025: Applicants with a school leaving certificate not issued by Umalusi\** (South Africa), available at [www.up.ac.za/programmes](http://www.up.ac.za/programmes) > Undergraduate > Admission information.
  - The *Newcomer's Guide 2024 of the International Cooperation Division*, available at [www.up.ac.za/programmes](http://www.up.ac.za/programmes) > Undergraduate > Admission information.
- 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 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.
- 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.



\* **Umalusi** accredits South African private providers of education and training as well as private assessment bodies to offer tuition and/or assessment for qualification(s) on the General and Further Education and Training Qualifications Sub-Framework (GFETQSF). Contact Umalusi at [info@umalusi.org.za](mailto:info@umalusi.org.za) or +27 (0)12 349 1510.

**Note:** Refer to the General Academic Regulations and Student Rules at [www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/home](http://www.up.ac.za/yearbooks/home), click on 'General Rules and Regulations'.

### APPLICATION AND CLOSING DATES:

- Applications open on 1 April. 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 applications for all UP study programmes is 30 June. This excludes the programmes in the Faculty of Veterinary Science which close on 31 May.

### APPLICATION STATUS:

- Apply with your final Grade 11 (or equivalent) results.
- Please note that meeting the minimum academic requirements does not guarantee admission.
- Applicants can expect feedback by September at the latest.
- Please check your application status regularly on the UP Student Portal at [www1.up.ac.za](http://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/faculty-of-theology-and-religion](http://www.up.ac.za/faculty-of-theology-and-religion)

## Minimum admission requirements

- The closing date for applications for programmes in this faculty is 30 June.
- Meeting the minimum admission requirements does not guarantee admission into a programme.

## University of Pretoria programme qualification project

The higher education sector has undergone an extensive alignment to the Higher Education Qualification Sub-Framework (HEQSF) across all institutions in South Africa. In order to comply with the HEQSF, all institutions are legally required to participate in a national initiative led by regulatory bodies such as the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), the Council on Higher Education (CHE), and the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA). The University of Pretoria is presently engaged in an ongoing effort to align its qualifications and programmes with the HEQSF criteria. Current and prospective students should take note that changes to UP qualification and programme names may occur as a result of the HEQSF initiative. Students are advised to contact their faculties if they have any questions.

Programmes	Minimum requirements for NSC/IEB for 2025	
	Achievement level	APS
	English Home Language or English First Additional Language	
<b>Bachelor of Arts in Theology</b> [3 years]	4	28
<b>Careers:</b> 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.		
<b>Diploma in Theology</b> [3 years]	3	24
<b>Careers:</b> 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.		



‘Coming to the Faculty of Theology and Religion was one of the most transformative experiences of my life. Not only did it provide me with a wealth of knowledge, but it also allowed me to connect with people from all walks of life. One of the things that I appreciate most about this Faculty is its commitment to fostering intellectual curiosity amongst its students. I also love the sense of community here. Whether it’s participating in extracurricular activities or attending lectures, there is always a chance to engage with one another and learn from each other.’

**Mahlatse Mathabathe**



## 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.



'Relevance. That is the word I have always cherished in my journey with the Faculty of Theology and Religion. When applying for tertiary education, there was a lot of confusion about life and a struggle to balance academics with all my personal challenges, but those challenges did not disturb my studies because of how relevant I found the work to be for me personally. It is always said that you are alone at the university, but I had a change of mind after journeying with this faculty. It made me feel like I was with family, and family will never leave you. Theology and Religion addresses all the problems that we are facing in the world, so if you have questions about life like I did, this is the place for you.'

**Rudzani Selapyane**

# 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).

## Postgraduate programmes in Theology and Religion

### BAHons (Theology)

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.

### Master of Divinity – MDiv

A coursework Master's degree programme in general theology covers all five theological disciplines and focuses on advanced theological knowledge and practical skills.

### Master of Theology – MTh

This programme offers students with an appropriate four year theological qualification an opportunity for theological specialisation 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

A theological undergraduate line which has culminated in a theological appropriate MTh may conclude with a PhD, which is awarded for achievements of highly specialised knowledge and expertise based on research.

### Contact information

Ms C Sandis

**Tel** +27 (0)12 420 4053

**Email** cathy.sandis@up.ac.za

# 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



### Centre for Faith and Community

The Centre for Faith and Community is hosted by the Faculty of Theology and Religion at the University of Pretoria, with a focus on the training of community and church leaders in South Africa, and beyond, for increased engagement in their respective contexts. In addition to the research it does and the consulting services it provides, the core vocation of the Centre remains enabling change makers to insert themselves deeply in local contexts, to read their contexts well, to reflect theologically and biblically, and to construct ministry responses that will bring healing and transformation.

Our training is designed to prepare leaders to address the challenges faced in their communities, accompany communities in ways that will address the deeper causes of some of those challenges, help communities imagine new and preferred realities for themselves, support communities as they begin appreciating, retrieving, mobilizing and optimizing their own assets, then help facilitate locally-owned ministry practices, processes and programmes that will in turn construct new realities. Our target audience includes spiritual leaders, non-profit leaders, business leaders, public servants, parents, care-givers, and others who want to be equipped for more effective community and ministry practice.



### Oxford Centre for Religion, Public Life and Security in Africa

Religion, however one defines it, has consciously or otherwise served as a vital cog in providing meaning to life for humanity. Much research has been attempted to study religion within different scientific fields such as history, philosophy, anthropology, sociology, psychology, economics, and so forth. Expanding from these scientific approaches to studying religion, the approach then began to address phenomena such as secularisation, medical science, law, politics and ethics. Some of the later developments began to include interreligious and intercultural dialogues, which sought to find answers for better harmonious societal cohesive coexistence between adherents to religious beliefs and culture.

The Oxford Centre for Religion, Public Life and Security in Africa (OCRPSA) is a significant role player to support and advance academic research and to contribute to knowledge about the impact of religion in all areas of society, particularly public life and security, and to train leaders to engage with public life issues from a theological perspective. Although the main focus of the Centre is vested in research on and within the context of Africa, the involvement of the global society and how it influences the continent of Africa is included.



# THE LEARNING MIX MATTERS

## LEARN AND GROW THE HYBRID WAY

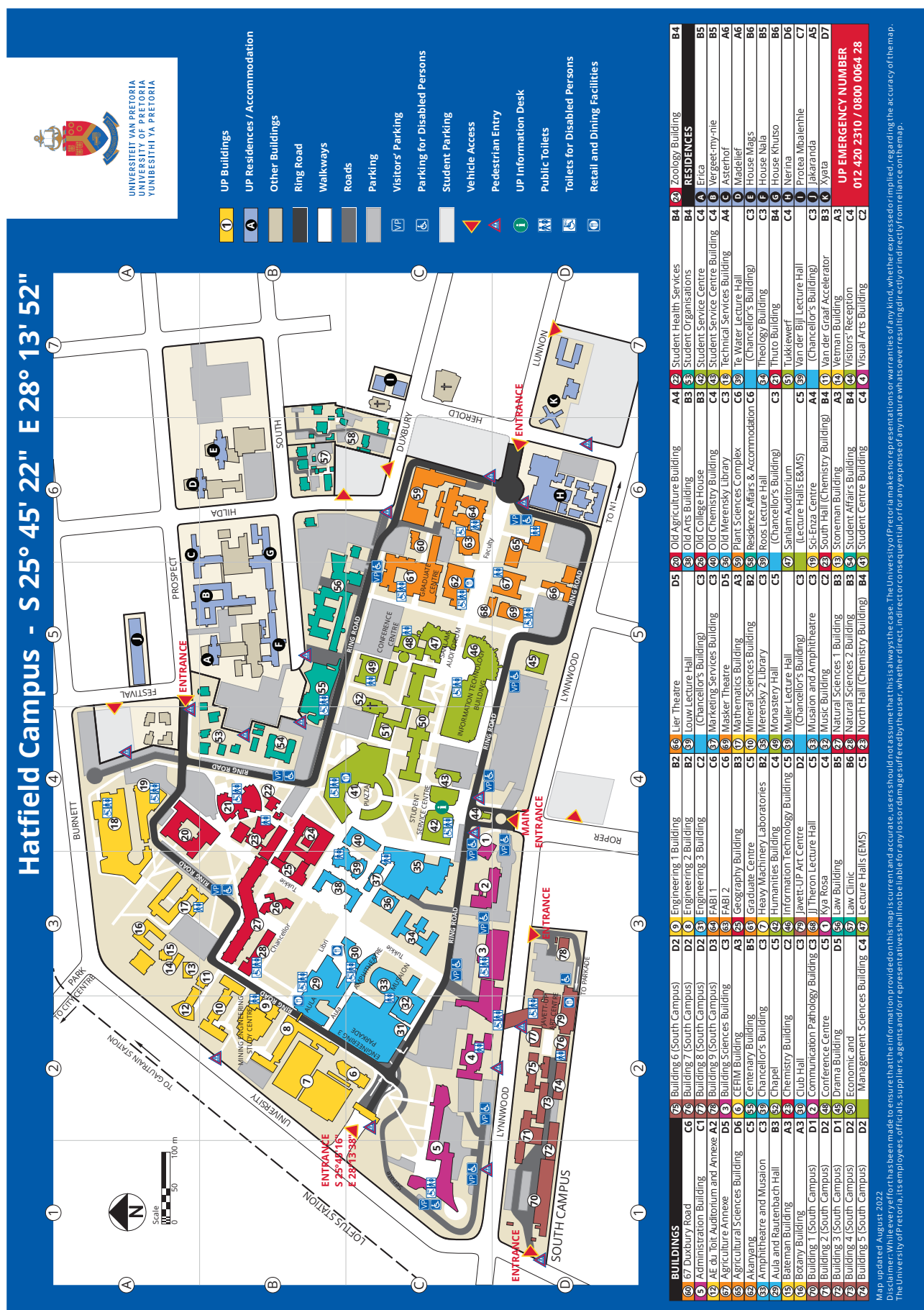
**Today...**  
understanding faith in context



*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



# 2025



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