

2018

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
FACULTY OF
THEOLOGY



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Inspiring excellence. Transforming lives.
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UNIVERSITY OF THE
FREE STATE
UNIVERSITEIT VAN DIE
VRYSTAAT
YUNIVESITHI YA
FREISTATA





TEOLO
THEO



FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

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

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 therefore 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, you will have the opportunity to equip yourself in auxiliary study areas. Subjects include Hebrew, Greek, Latin, Psychology, and Religion Studies. You will learn everything you need to know to stand your ground in the church as a pastor, or as a spiritual leader in the community. We provide you with 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.

Welcome to the Faculty of Theology
PROF FANIE SNYMAN (DEAN)

"For us it is about Theology without boundaries."



APPLICATION AND ADMISSION TO STUDY IN 2018

APPLICATION TO STUDY AT THE UFS IS FREE FOR SA, SADC, AND NON-SADC STUDENTS

ONLINE application: Go to www.ufs.ac.za. Follow the link 'how to apply' – online application. For assistance, contact +27 51 401 9538.

Remember to upload copies of:

- Your ID or passport
- Your parent's ID or passport if you are younger than 18 years
- Your Grade 11 final results and Grade 12 June results, both with the school's stamp
- Your academic records if you are a current student at another institution of higher learning

WRITTEN application: Go to www.ufs.ac.za. Follow the link 'how to apply' and download the application. Complete and sign it, and post it with all the relevant documentation to: The Application Office, PO Box 339, Bloemfontein 9300.

Remember to include copies of:

- Your ID or passport
- Your parent's ID or passport if you are younger than 18 years
- Your Grade 11 final results and Grade 12 June results, both with the school's stamp
- Your academic records if you are a current student at another institution of higher learning

ADMISSION

Pay attention to the following important information:

- Higher Education South Africa (HESA) sets 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 the following to apply for admission to a Bachelor's Degree at any South African university:
 - Four (4) of the seven (7) subjects included in your NSC subject package should be from the designated subject list.
 - A performance level of at least 4 (50%) in each of these four (4) subjects
- All admission requirements apply to first-year students in 2018.
- 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
- The UFS reserves the right to change the minimum requirements of each programme without notifying you.
- Applications for all non-selection programmes close on 29 September 2017.

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%)
AP	8	7	6
5 (60–69%)	4 (50–59%)	3 (40–49%)	2 (30–39%)
5	4	3	2

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



UNDERGRADUATE STUDIES

The following non-selection programmes are presented only on the Bloemfontein Campus:

Enquiries: Program Director:

Rev Marlene Oosthuizen: +27 51 401 2617/2667 | moosthuizen@ufs.ac.za

Programme Description		Minimum Admission Requirements			Duration
Programme	Academic Plan Code	AP	Language of instruction	Compulsory National Benchmark Test	Minimum Duration
Higher Certificate in Theology HCert (Theology)	BC911000	20	4 (50%)	AL, QL	One year
Bachelor in Divinity* BDiv	BC940300	29	4 (50%)	AL, QL	Four years
Bachelor in Divinity Extended Curriculum Programme*	BC9403E0	25	4 (50%)	AL, QL	Five years

Note: *The Bachelor in Divinity is a qualification in Theology focusing on professional ministry.

The Faculty of Theology adheres to the general admission requirements of the University of the Free State. Admission requirements are subject to change.



BACHELOR OF DIVINITY: BDiv

The four-year Bachelor degree is a full-time course providing the opportunity to study the Bible, the history of Christianity, and systematic interpretation of the Bible and Christian faith from the first year. We also provide you the opportunity to study some of the ancient languages (Greek, Hebrew, and Latin) or other subjects from the Humanities, such as Psychology, Philosophy, Sociology, Criminology, or Music. In the third year the focus is on practice, with subjects such as Practical Theology, Missiology, and Religion Studies. If you want to become a preacher, pastor or a spiritual leader in your community, this degree is ideal for you.

Admission requirements

To be admitted to the Bachelor programme, you must be in possession of a National Senior Certificate (from 2008), an AP of 29 and a level 4 (50%) in the language of instruction. Students that do not meet these requirements may be admitted to the Extended Curriculum Programme with an AP of 25 and 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

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

Curriculum: First year

Compulsory Theology modules	
Systematic Theology	New Testament
Church History	Old Testament
Compulsory university modules	
Afrikaans or English (if NBT point was insufficient)	UFS core curriculum
Computer literacy	
Elective modules (up to 64 credits)	
Ancient languages (Greek, Hebrew, Latin)	Religion Studies
Philosophy	South African languages
Sociology	International languages
Psychology	Music
Criminology	



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 communities and in the building of churches. The course is designed for people who find themselves in situations where a need for Christian ministry exists: 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. Skills such as the following are taught: communication and listening skills, skills to read and write in a theological context, the use and interpretation of the Bible, counselling and leadership skills. Constructive attention is given to African Theology. The course is presented on a part-time basis and students need to attend classes fortnightly.

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 one of the official teaching languages of the UFS.

Curriculum

Compulsory semester modules

Bible and Hermeneutics	Pastoral Care
African Theology	Christian Leadership



DESCRIPTION OF SUBJECTS

Religion Studies

Although the majority of people in South Africa are Christians, the country is regarded as a multi-religious society. Religion Studies focus on the main religions as practised in South Africa. In this subject, those religions are studied thematically. The motivation for Theological students to study other religions is to equip them to better engage other religions, either in discussions or for the purpose of missions. Religion Studies therefore opens up a world of religions to the Theological student.

In the Religion Education course, Religion Studies focus on a basic introduction to different religions, as well as how to engage learners at both primary and high schools.

Enquiries: Dr Luvuyo Ntombana: +27 51 401 3272 | ntombanal@ufs.ac.za

Practical Theology

The Word of God for the people of today – this is the world 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 care 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 transfer 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

Enquiries: Prof WJ Schoeman: Tel: +27 51 401 2668 | schoemanw@ufs.ac.za

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 focus 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, also how theology should respond to that.

Enquiries: Prof R Venter: Tel: +27 51 401 2788 | rianventer@mweb.co.za | rventer@ufs.ac.za

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 studies issues such as the offices in the church, meetings in the church like 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.

Enquiries: Prof P Verster (Acting Head of Department): +27 51 401 2972 | versterp@ufs.ac.za

New Testament

In the New Testament discipline, we attempt to understand the 27 writings of the New Testament thoroughly. We do this by placing each piece of writing within the original situation it was written in. 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?'

Enquiries: Prof DF Tolmie: +27 51 401 3023 | tolmief@ufs.ac.za



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, is 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 grasp 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 an insight into the main theological trends in 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.

Enquiries: Prof SD Snyman: +27 51 401 2667 | snymansd@ufs.ac.za

Missiology

To be a missionary is to spread the glorious Good News of Jesus Christ to the world. With us you will learn what the Bible has to say about mission; 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.

Enquiries: Prof P Verster: Tel: +27 51 401 2972 | versterp@ufs.ac.za

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES ABOUT THESE COURSES, PLEASE CONTACT OR WRITE TO THE FACULTY.

Office of the Dean

Faculty of Theology

University of the Free State

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All information in this publication is subject to change. Information in this publication has been compiled with the utmost care. However, the Council and Senate accept no responsibility for errors. Studying the Faculty Rule Book, available at www.ufs.ac.za, as the final and correct source, is important.

This publication was compiled and produced by the Department of Marketing and Recruitment at the University of the Free State.

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Bloemfontein
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THEOLOGY



**Bloemfontein
Campus
13 May 2017**

**Qwaqwa
Campus
20 May 2017**

UNIVERSITY OF THE FREE STATE
OPEN DAY



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