

# BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY

<b>Abbreviation:</b>	BTh
<b>Australian Qualifications Framework (AQF):</b>	Level 7
<b>Entry Requirements:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• An Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) of 72.5, or its equivalent; or</li><li>• Mature Age and Special Entry Admissions for those who have reached the age of 21; or</li><li>• articulation from other Sydney College of Divinity programs.</li></ul>
<b>Duration:</b>	3 years full-time or equivalent part-time.
<b>Structure:</b>	216 credit points (i.e. 24 units)
<b>English Proficiency:</b>	Applicants whose entry qualifications were obtained in an institution where English is not the language of instruction normally require a minimum International English Language Testing System (IELTS, or equivalent) score of 6.5 with no score less than 6.0 in all bands of the 'academic format' of the test.
<b>Fees:</b>	\$900 per 9 credit points, taken at 7100-7300 level. Please read 'Financial Information' in Section 6 of the Handbook for further details and scholarship opportunities. FEE-HELP is available (conditions apply).
<b>Vocational and Career Paths:</b>	Graduates may be called to discern a vocation to ordination under the guidance of the appropriate Church authority, or to pursue a range of career options in areas such as church administration, tertiary academia, primary and secondary teaching, social work, and chaplaincy within hospitals and aged-care homes, correctional services, police and defence forces, and universities. They can also pursue careers in other areas that utilise the skills they have acquired in their degree, such as civil service, law, research, journalism and media, administration, and public relations.

## OVERVIEW

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The Bachelor of Theology degree is a primary qualification in theology and is the basis for further study at postgraduate level. It is a broad course combining both theological and practical studies. All relevant components and course units of the Bachelor of Theology are normally completed over three years.

At present, the Bachelor of Theology serves as the principal means of training men for ordination or active ministry within the Church and, as such, admission to this program is limited to male applicants aspiring to this end. After satisfying the requirements of the Bachelor of Theology, students may be eligible to complete the Bachelor of Theology (Honours) program or to complete a postgraduate course of study determined by Faculty.

At all times, applicants are advised that completion of their studies does not constitute a guarantee of ordination in the Orthodox Church. Among other things, applicants considering ordination should keep in mind that the years of education and training at St Andrew's serve as a period of discernment, and that ordination itself is regulated by the canon law of the Eastern Orthodox Church. Application of the relevant canons as well as the establishment and application of any other requirements relating to ordination lies exclusively with the competent ecclesiastical authority. Applicants who have questions concerning their eligibility for ordination should consult with their appropriate ecclesiastical authority. They may also seek further information from the Registrar.

Although part-time study is available, priority is given to prospective full-time students during the admissions process.

## RATIONALE

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The three year program at St Andrew's, designed for male students with an intention of ordination or active service within the Church, has simultaneously an academic, spiritual and practical nature in order to impart to students a thorough knowledge, skills and *phronema* (mentality or attitude) in Orthodox theology and spirituality for multifarious *diakonia* (ministry) in an Australian context.

Given the distinctive theological ethos and character of Eastern Christianity, the aim of the College's educational program is to integrate spirituality, faith and academic excellence. Consequently, St Andrew's is not a secular institution. The mind, the heart and the soul are to be nurtured: "You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself" (Luke 10:27). At St Andrew's, the lecture room, the library and the study (the places of learning), and the chapel (the place of worship), are all of equal significance. All scholarly endeavours are ultimately a reflection upon the glory and truth of the Holy Trinity and divine revelation. This sacred meditation upon God's Word is to be pursued by both faculty and students within the various theological disciplines within the lecture room with the certainty of academic freedom and dignity.

In the spirit of Orthodox Christianity, educational growth is inseparably bound to the values, spirit and experience of the faith. As such, St Andrew's is concerned with the spiritual and moral development of the students. The theologian is the one who struggles not only to gain a deep understanding of the faith but also lives this faith with all its powers and practical applications.

St Andrew's aspires to promote a student's potential towards excellence. The College is concerned with the advancement of Orthodox thought and life. Through research, publications and ecumenical encounters, it seeks to provide sound theological reflection on vital issues facing the Church. It has always envisioned itself to be a place and source of renewal and continuing education for those already engaged in ministry. It is dedicated to the task of helping those aspiring to fulfil their calling in various ministries in the midst of the complexities and responsibilities of this postmodern era. Furthermore, given our own sceptical and secular age, which has attempted to demythologise and trivialise the most fundamental elements of the faith, one aspect of the College's academic thrust is to demonstrate the historical certainty upon which the Church's faith is grounded. In this particular endeavour, St Andrew's does not hesitate to employ contemporary historical and analytical forms of inquiry.

## NATURE OF THE PROGRAM

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The primary aim of St Andrew's is to train **bilingual** priests and theologians for Greek Orthodox Parishes and Communities throughout Australia. In order to foster the linguistic skills necessary for effective parish work the **Modern Greek** language is currently taught as a separate component and, although not credited for the undergraduate program, is regarded as an internal requirement.

It should be noted that an emphasis on the discipline of 'Theology' is due to the significance which Orthodoxy places upon the Church Fathers and their understanding of Holy Scripture. As an essential and universal dimension of Orthodox theological endeavour, Patristic Theology constitutes an additional field in the discipline of 'Theology', owing to its interrelationship and interaction with Systematic Theology. In this offering, St Andrew's becomes distinctive among member institutions of the SCD.

The three year program at St Andrew's includes both academic and practical components in order to give students a thorough training in Eastern Orthodox theology and the skills needed for a contemporary pastoral ministry in Australia. In addition, St Andrew's is intended to be a centre of ecumenical scholarship and interaction.

## STRUCTURE

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1. Completion of 216 credit points (i.e. 24 units) including three sub-major sequences:
  - a. Biblical Studies
  - b. Theology
  - c. Church History
2. Two of these sub-majors shall be extended to a major, one of which must be Theology
3. At least 36 credit points in Christian Life and Ministry (i.e. Worship and Liturgy, Pastoral Counselling, and Pastoral Theology) must be included in the degree.
4. Majors and sub-majors are available in:
  - a. Biblical Studies (requires 54 credit points plus 9 credit points in A7120A Introduction to New Testament Greek);
  - b. Church History;
  - c. Christian Life & Ministry (including the sub-disciplines of Worship and Liturgy, Pastoral Counselling, and Pastoral Theology);
  - d. Theology
5. A major in a sub-discipline requires 54 credit points from the sub-discipline, with not more than 18 credit points from 7100 level units and at least 9 credit points from 7300 level units. Under certain provisions (see clause 8 below), up to 36 credit points from 8500 and 9600 level units may be included.

6. A major in a discipline requires 54 credit points from the discipline, with at least 27 credit points in one sub-discipline, with not more than 18 credit points from 7100 level units and at least 9 credit points from 7300 level units. Under certain provisions (see clause 8 below), up to 36 credit points from 8500 and 9600 level units may be included.
7. A sub-major requires 36 credit points from units assigned to the major including no more than 18 credit points from 7100 level units and with at least one 7200 level unit.
8. Candidates who have completed 108 credit points towards the Bachelor of Theology may select up to 36 credit points from the Schedule of 8500 and 9600 level units. Within these units, a candidate can only select up to 18 credit points of 9600 series units provided they have already completed at least a sub-major in that sub-discipline with a Grade Point Average of at least 2.0.

## **INTERNAL REQUIREMENTS**

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1. Six semesters of Modern Greek language studies unless evidence of strong competency or prior tertiary study in this field warrant exemption. Any request for exemption is subject to the approval of Faculty.
2. Six semesters of Byzantine chant unless evidence of strong competency or prior tertiary study in this field warrant exemption. Any request for exemption is subject to the approval of Faculty.
3. Field education as prescribed.
4. Participation in daily chapel services, other liturgical services and any occasional events as instructed.
5. Assignment to a parish for Sunday morning services as instructed.
6. Participation in the annual student retreat and other group excursions and pilgrimages as instructed.
7. Participation in seminars, workshops and conferences, public lectures, bible study, and designated 'College Events' as instructed.

## **CREDIT FOR PREVIOUS OR CONCURRENT STUDY**

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1. Credit may be granted in units for comparable work completed or concurrently being undertaken at an approved level at any recognised tertiary institution, to a maximum of 144 credit points. Applications for credit must include an authorised transcript of the studies undertaken and the official description of units completed at the other institutions.
2. Credit is determined by the Student Administration Committee of the SCD and is subject to its final approval.
3. Receipt of credit for previous or concurrent study does not normally exempt a student from completing the compulsory requirements of St Andrew's unless such exemption is approved by Faculty.

## **EXTERNAL STUDIES**

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The requirements of specific units in majors and sub-majors can also be fulfilled if a student undertakes an equivalent unit at another member institution of the SCD or at a university or recognised tertiary institution after consultation with the Registrar and subject to Faculty approval.

## **EXIT POINTS**

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Students enrolled in the Bachelor of Theology may exit with a Diploma of Christian Studies provided they have met the requirements of the award.

## SAMPLE PROGRAM (FULL TIME STUDENT)

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### Year 1

Semester 1	Semester 2
Introduction to New Testament Greek Introduction to the Old Testament Introduction to Christian Worship Introduction to Theology <i>Byzantine Music / Modern Greek</i> <i>Field Education / Seminars</i>	New Testament Greek Introduction to the New Testament Introduction to Pastoral Theology & Ministry Early Church Fathers <i>Byzantine Music / Modern Greek</i> <i>Field Education / Seminars</i>

### Year 2

Semester 1	Semester 2
The Four Gospels or Pauline Literature Introduction to Pastoral Counselling History of the Early Church Early Byzantine Patristic Theology <i>Byzantine Music / Modern Greek</i> <i>Field Education / Seminars</i>	Early Byzantine History The Church or The Self-Revealing God Later Byzantine Patristic Theology ELECTIVE UNIT <i>Byzantine Music / Modern Greek</i> <i>Field Education / Seminars</i>

### Year 3

Semester 1	Semester 2
Pauline Literature or The Four Gospels Later Byzantine History ELECTIVE UNIT ELECTIVE UNIT <i>Byzantine Music / Modern Greek</i> <i>Field Education / Seminars</i>	History of the Orth. Churches since 1453 The Self-Revealing God or The Church ELECTIVE UNIT ELECTIVE UNIT <i>Byzantine Music / Modern Greek</i> <i>Field Education / Seminars</i>

Elective units are listed in the timetable and may vary from year to year. These may include Clinical Pastoral Education, supervised ministry, eligible postgraduate unit(s), generic unit(s) in an available discipline, and/or cross-institutional study (with permission).