

Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies (Liturgy)

Duration

2 years (part-time), with two units offered each year

Tuition fees

Visit acu.edu.au/fees for the most up to date information on fees, including eligibility for FEE-HELP.

Further study

The Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies (Liturgy) provides entry and advanced standing into the Graduate Diploma of Theological Studies and Master of Theological Studies.



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Conference



“The GCTS (Liturgy) course provided me with access to a wide variety of interesting and wonderfully practical readings, resources and information about many aspects of liturgy and liturgical practice.

I enjoyed sharing ideas about these with online colleagues. The lectures were energetic and rich in dialogue, and enabled me to learn content that I now use confidently in my work role and for my parish ministries.”

Elizabeth Fort
ACU graduate, GCTS (Liturgy)

The Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies (Liturgy) provides specialised training for liturgists, religious educators, musicians, clergy, pastoral associates and others preparing and celebrating liturgy in parish, school, campus and chaplaincy settings. This certificate provides a practical, postgraduate qualification specially designed to:

- introduce the fundamentals of liturgical studies: rituals, symbols, languages, theology, books
- promote a contemporary understanding of the Church’s official teaching on liturgical celebration
- provide training in the theology and ritual practice of sacraments for catechesis and celebration
- investigate the functions, forms and purposes of music in the liturgy
- explore the Christian conception and celebration of time.

HOW IS THE COURSE STRUCTURED?

The course consists of a total of 40 credit points (cp) comprising four compulsory units, each worth 10 cp: Foundations in Liturgy, Sacraments of Initiation, Liturgical Music, and Celebrating Feasts and Seasons.

HOW IS THE COURSE OFFERED?

The units are offered in a variety of flexible learning modes: scheduled online, intensive face-to-face and weekend intensives. Scheduled online units combine online study with live interactive fortnightly web seminars where you can watch, listen to and speak with the presenter in real-time; respond, ask questions and interact via instant chat; and work together in small groups.

WHAT ARE THE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS?

You need to have completed an undergraduate degree in any discipline. Other applications will be considered on merit. International students must meet ACU’s English language and other requirements.

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YEAR	DESCRIPTION	SEMESTER
Year 1	Foundations in Liturgy	Semester 1
Year 1	Sacraments of Initiation	Semester 2
Year 2	Celebrating Feasts and Seasons	Semester 1
Year 2	Liturgical Music	Professional Term intensive

UNIT DESCRIPTIONS

THLS501 Foundations in Liturgy

10cp

Prerequisites: Nil

This unit will introduce you to the fundamentals of liturgical studies. It defines what liturgy is, explores the rituals and symbols of contemporary Roman Catholic liturgy, introduces the languages of the liturgy and key liturgical books and documents, and outlines the theological and pastoral principles governing liturgical celebration. It presents the scriptural and historical foundations of liturgy, and it draws forth principles for preparing and evaluating effective liturgies. You'll gain a broad understanding of the theological principles, structures and fundamental concepts on which the study, preparation and celebration of liturgy are based.

THLS503 Sacraments of Initiation

10cp

Prerequisites: Nil

This unit concerns the Sacraments of Initiation – Baptism, Confirmation and Eucharist – within the Catholic tradition. It introduces the idea of sacraments and sacramentality and outlines the scriptural, historical, ritual and theological underpinnings of the Church's initiatory practices. It focuses on both the theoretical and practical aspects of celebrating these sacraments in the Church today and considers the different patterns of initiation for children and adults. You'll develop a broad understanding of how Sacraments of Initiation lay the foundation of the Christian life, how they developed within the history of the Church, and how their theology and ritual practice have been adapted over time to the changing historical circumstances and theological developments in the life of the Church.

THLS500 Celebrating Feasts and Seasons

10cp

Prerequisites: Nil

This unit examines the Christian conception and celebration of time by exploring the major feasts and seasons of the Church's Liturgical Year. It also studies the purposes of prayer, the Liturgy of the Hours, other types of non-sacramental celebrations, popular devotions and blessings. You'll gain an overview of the Church's theology of time expressed in the Liturgical Year through its historical development, its interaction with varied local cultural and environmental conditions, its influence on the Lectionary and its determination of the Christian calendar with its seasons, feasts and variety of prayer forms. You'll also develop an understanding of a selection of broader Christian prayer practices, including non-liturgical prayer and popular devotions.

THCT502 Liturgical Music

10cp

Prerequisites: Nil

Music forms an integral part of the Church's liturgy as an artistic expression of the Church's prayer and theology. This unit explores the nature of liturgical music, its history and the Catholic Church's official teaching on music from Vatican II onward. It will concentrate on the use of music in liturgy today exploring its function, forms and purpose, and it will draw forth theological and pastoral principles to guide the choice of appropriate music for liturgical use. You'll be introduced to the Catholic Church's definition, documentation and practice of liturgical music, and learn to understand and use key criteria to identify suitable liturgical music as well as choose fitting music for different liturgical moments, purposes and genres of liturgical texts. You'll evaluate what makes music effective in liturgy and understand the power of liturgical music for bonding an assembly in its worship of God in a way unsurpassed by any other art.



**To express interest
or find out more**

Email:
ftp.pg@acu.edu.au

Phone:
1300 ASK ACU
(1300 275 228)

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