



# MASTER OF PROFESSIONAL STUDIES IN THEOLOGY

Individuals working within Catholic settings are required to promote faithfully, and with credibility, the mission, identity and ethos of the Catholic Church. A key component of being able to do this is an enhanced theological knowledge, something which is not often built into prior qualifications.

The Master of Professional Studies in Theology has been created to meet this specific need. For teachers in Catholic schools, the Master of Professional Studies in Theology enables them to undertake a sequence of theological units that will better inform their personal faith as well as their work in the classroom and in faith leadership roles.

For other professionals, such as those working in Catholic agencies and organisations other than schools, the Master of Professional Studies in Theology enables them to build on shorter programs such as the Graduate Certificate in Leadership in Catholic Culture to achieve a stronger understanding of the values and beliefs underpinning the work of their organisations. For teachers, a particular highlight of the program is the inclusion of two units on the Enhancing Catholic Schools Identity (ECSI) Project. The ECSI project is currently deployed throughout Victorian Catholic dioceses as a tool for enhancing Catholic identity in schools within an increasingly secular and pluralist environment.

## STUDY ABROAD

Recognising the increasingly globalised professional environment, the program provides numerous opportunities for students to complete study tour units:

- Catholic Leadership and Culture Study Tour
- Living Catholic Social Teaching in Asia
- Theology Study Tour which takes advantage of activities on ACU's new Rome campus; and
- Bible Lands Study Tour

Visit [acu.edu.au/studyabroadwithftp](http://acu.edu.au/studyabroadwithftp) for current study tour offerings.

## AIMS AND STUDENT LEARNING OUTCOMES

The Master of Professional Studies in Theology is a coursework degree for graduates seeking to develop an area of specialisation suited to work in Catholic schools or other Church agencies. Graduates of the Master of Professional Studies in Theology will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a critical awareness of sources for and methodological approaches to a range of areas in Catholic thought;
2. Interpret biblical texts using insights drawn from historical and theological analyses;
3. Articulate and explain central Catholic doctrines;
4. Articulate the implications of Christian belief for Christian practice;

5. Demonstrate advanced knowledge and skills in theology for informing teaching or other applied practice;

6. Undertake successfully a research-based project in an area of Catholic Studies.

The Master of Professional Studies in Theology articulates easily into other theological programs such as the Master of Theological Studies.

## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

A bachelor degree, OR  
Any one of:

- Graduate Certificate in Catholic Studies,
- Graduate Certificate in Theological Studies,
- Graduate Certificate in Leadership and Catholic Culture,
- Graduate Diploma in Theological Studies,
- Graduate Certificate in Religious Education, or
- Postgraduate Certificate in Education or equivalent

## AND

A minimum of one year's professional experience in the Catholic sector.

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## STRUCTURE AND ENTRY POINTS DEPENDING ON YOUR BACKGROUND

### ENTER WITH NO FORMAL BACKGROUND & COMPLETE 120 CP (1.5 YEARS FTE)

20 cp from Specified Units including introductory units in biblical studies and theology;  
 70 cp from Elective units, including no less than 50 cp at 600-level;  
 30cp from Research Units.

or

### ENTER WITH A RELEVANT GRADUATE CERTIFICATE & COMPLETE 80 CP (1 YEAR FTE)

50 cp from Elective units  
 (at the appropriate level, as advised)  
 30cp from Research Units.

or

### ENTER WITH THE GRADUATE CERTIFICATE IN LEADERSHIP AND CATHOLIC CULTURE & COMPLETE 80 CP (1 YEAR FTE)

THBS635 Gospels of the Liturgical Year  
 40 cp from Elective units (at 600-level);  
 30cp from Research Units.

or

### ENTER WITH GRADUATE DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES & COMPLETE 40 CP (0.5 YEAR FTE)

10 cp from Elective units (at 600-level);  
 30cp from Research Units.

## UNIT OFFERINGS

(UNIT AVAILABILITY DIFFERS ON AN ANNUAL BASIS)

### Specified Units

#### Unit Name

Biblical Studies OR  
 Introducing the Scriptures  
 Foundations of Christian Faith OR  
 Introducing Theology

### Elective Units: 500-level

#### Unit Name

Ethics in a Faith-Based Context  
 A Synoptic Gospel  
 Celebrating Feasts and Seasons  
 Foundations in Liturgy  
 Liturgical Music  
 Jesus the Christ  
 Sacraments of Initiation  
 The Early Christian World  
 Introducing Church Life  
 Theology Elective

### Elective Units: 600-level

#### Unit Name

The Problem of Evil  
 Bible Lands Study Tour  
 Literature of the Hebrew Bible  
 New Testament Christology  
 Pauline Literature  
 The Gospel of John  
 Gospels of the Liturgical Year  
 Foundations of Social Justice  
 Issues in Christian Ethics  
 Spirituality in the Christian Tradition  
 Creation, Grace and Salvation  
 Fundamentals in Theology  
 Sacraments and Sacramentality  
 Enhancing Catholic Identity: Introducing the Leuven Project  
 Recontextualisation: The Challenge for Authentic Transformation  
 Becoming Church Today: Identity and Mission  
 Celebrating Liturgy Today: Exploring the Ritual Enactment of Faith  
 Charism and Spirituality of a Religious Congregation  
 Special Studies in Theology A  
 Special Studies in Theology B  
 Catholic Leadership and Culture Study Tour  
 Living Catholic Social Teaching in Asia Study Tour  
 Theology Study Tour

Up to 40cp in Religious Education units (including no more than 20 cp at 500-level) and up to 10 cp from 600-level Educational Leadership units.

### Research Units

#### Unit Name

Introduction to Philosophical and Theological Research  
 Theology Project C

Want to know more?

Talk to someone in the Faculty of Theology and Philosophy:

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 Postgraduate Course Coordinator  
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