

The Degree of Bachelor of Theology

(New Curriculum as from 2009)

(Degree code: 02135)

(Various churches recognize the Unisa BTh degree as part of the academic formation of their ministers. Students who wish to prepare themselves for church ministry are advised to consult their church authorities regarding the recognition of the Unisa BTh degree for that purpose).

These rules should be read in conjunction with the general rules and information in Part 1 of the Calendar.

NB

Students MUST also, BEFORE registration, consult the Registration Information Brochure in connection with semester registrations.

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Admission requirements

To be registered as a candidate for the BTh (new curriculum) degree, students must have satisfied the provisions of G13 in Part 1 of the Calendar. An abstract of this Rule appears in Section 1.

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Duration of study and number of study units per year

- (1) The BTh degree cannot be completed in under THREE YEARS.
- (2) ON FIRST REGISTRATION AND ON RE-ENROLMENT at this University the number of study units for which a student may register is determined by 'Number of study units per year' in Section D3 in Part 1 of the Calendar.
- (3) Refer to Section D3 'Number of study units per year' in Part 1 of the Calendar for number of study units a student may take per year.

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Composition of the curriculum

MODULES OFFERED IN THE BTH DEGREE

- A revised BTh curriculum came into effect on 1 January 2009. This new curriculum offers four majors ('tracks'), namely Scripture Studies (SCR), Theologies in Context (TIC), Congregational Ministry (CGM) and Community Ministry (CMM). Some modules offered in the old curriculum have been moved to other tracks and others are no longer offered (See Table 2 below). All the modules available for the new BTh curriculum are listed in Table 1 below.
- A semester format for BTh modules is being phased in as from January 2009. Study each module's details in the subject chapters with the headings 'Scripture Studies' in Part 2 of the Calendar, before enrolling for it. Make sure whether a particular module is offered in a semester or a year format. The volume of work in a module remains the same (120 notional hours), whether it is concentrated into a semester or stretched over a year.

TABLE 1: MODULES OFFERED AS PART OF THE BTH

Scripture Studies	Theologies in Context (TIC)	Congregational Ministry (CGM)	Community Ministry (CMM)
NQF LEVEL 7			
BTH3720: Integrated theological praxis (compulsory capstone module)			
ECH3705 (BBS302L): Early Christian spirituality			
ECH3704 (BBS308S): Construction of bodies, gender and sexuality in early Christianity	TIC3705 (SCR306B): Christian foundations: The early centuries	CGM3705 (CGM3083): Christian leadership and church management	CMM3705 (TIC302C): Christian moral decision-making
ECH3703 (CMM310U): The Bible and human development in postcolonial Africa ECH3702 (BBA3025): Religion, worship and prayer in the early Christian world	TIC3704 (CMM306Y): Christianity in Africa	CGM3704 (CMM305X): The research challenge: Doing empirical research in theology	CMM3704 (CMM3073): The dynamics of interreligious encounter
ECH3701 (BBA306A): Death, tombs and burials in the early Christian world OTS3705: Understanding the OT through archaeology (2010)	TIC3703 (TIC311D): Church and society across the ages	CGM3703 (CGM3094): Caring for all: Exploring the field of pastoral work	CMM3703 (CMM303V): Christian social ethics
OTS3704 The Bible and sexuality (from 2010) OTS3703 (BBA3059): The Bible and African cultures	TIC3702 (TIC310C): Faith, philosophy and science	CGM3702 (CGM303U): From text to sermon: Reading and creating religious texts	CMM3702 (CMM302U): God, creation and environment

Scripture Studies	Theologies in Context (TIC)	Congregational Ministry (CGM)	Community Ministry (CMM)
OTS3702 (BBA3048) Excavating a biblical city OTS3701 (BBS307R): Politics, power and prophecy in ancient Israel	TIC3701 (TIC309K): Faith, the Spirit and the future	CGM3701 (CGM302T): Sexual ethics	CMM3701 (CMM301T): Christian action for antiracism and reconciliation
NQF LEVEL 6			
ECH2603 (BBA307B): Illness, health and healing in the early Christian world ECH2602 (BBA3036): Daily life in early Christianity ECH2601 (SCR112Y): Text interpretation, theory and method OTS2604: The Bible and the eradication of poverty OTS2603: (BBS309T) Life orientation: Biblical perspectives OTS2602 (BBA3025): From Dan to Beersheba OTS2601 (BBS305P): The Bible, creation and ecology	TIC2604 (TIC308J): World Christianity and ecumenism TIC2603 (TIC307H): Faith, Jesus and social change TIC2602 (TIC306G): Christianity and a changing South Africa TIC2601 (TIC304E): Faith, church and culture	CGM2603 (CGM307Y): Exploring celebration and worship CGM2602 (CGM305W): Preaching in a context of poverty CGM2601 (CGM304V): Ethics and spirituality	CMM2603 (CGM310T): Intercultural Christian communication CMM2602: Youth ministry in communities (<i>from 2010</i>) CMM2601 (TIC301B): Women in society and church
NQF LEVEL 5			
ECH1501 (BBS104G): Introduction to early Christian literature, theology, history and archaeology OTS1501 (BBS103F): Introduction to ancient Israelite literature	TIC1502 (TIC1128): Introduction to the study of church history TIC1501 (TIC1116): Reflections on faith	CGM1502 (CGM112P): First steps in Practical Theology CGM1501 (CGM111N): Invitation to theology	CMM1502 (CMM112Q): The dynamics of mission CMM1501 (CMM111P): Ethics and life

- Consult the subject chapters with the headings Scripture Studies, Theologies in Context, Congregational Ministry and Community Ministry in Part 2 of the Calendar for the syllabus and other details of each BTh module.
- In the new curriculum the BTh modules are 'pegged' at three levels: NQF level 5 ('first year'), NQF level 6 ('second year') and NQF level 7 ('third year'). The code given to a module conveys all this information. For example, the code CMM2603 implies that the module is in the CMM track, is a 'second year' module, which is pegged at NQF level 6 and is the third (03) module at that level in the track.
- The code given in brackets in each cell of the diagram represents the equivalent module in the old BTh curriculum.
- The BTh degree comprises 30 modules. In the new curriculum only 8 modules may be taken at NQF level 5. These 8 modules at level 5 are all core (compulsory) modules. At levels 6 and 7 of the NQF a student must take a minimum of 10 and a maximum of 12 modules per level.
- Three BTh programmes were offered until 2007, but as from 2008 no new registrations were accepted in the two specialised programmes: The BTh with specialisation in Pastoral Counselling, and the BTh with specialisation in Urban Ministry. Students who are presently enrolled for these specialised programmes have until 2010 to complete the qualification. If they have not completed the programme by the end of 2010, they will be transferred to the generic BTh programme at the beginning of 2011.
- The only programme for which a new student may enrol is the Bachelor of Theology (as a generic qualification).
- In addition to the four theology tracks, the old curriculum contained a fifth ('other') track, which allowed students to include modules from other disciplines in their BTh curriculum. The new curriculum does not have this 'other' track, so students who commence their BTh studies as from 2009 may not include modules from other disciplines in their curriculum. However, students 'in the pipeline' who had completed nine or more modules in the old curriculum by January 2009, may include a maximum of 9 modules from other disciplines in the 'other' track: 2 at level 5 and 7 at levels 6 and 7.
- Students must pass all 8 core modules at NQF level 5 before registering for modules at NQF level 6. Alternatively, they may register for level 6 modules together with all the outstanding level 5 modules.
- Students must pass at least 10 modules at NQF level 6 before registering for modules at NQF level 7. Alternatively, they may register for level 7 modules together with all the outstanding level 6 modules.
- The module Invitation to theology (CGM1501, formerly CGM111N) is foundational to the BTh degree and must be taken in a student's first semester of registration for the BTh.
- The module Integrated theological praxis (BTH3720, formerly BTH320A) is a core (compulsory) module at level 7. It must be taken in the last year of registration for the BTh, when there is a realistic possibility that the student can complete the degree in that year.
- A student who intends to do an Honours BTh degree in a particular discipline after the BTh is strongly encouraged to enrol for all the undergraduate modules in that discipline (see the entries in Part 2 of the Calendar under the headings Church History, Missiology, New Testament, Old Testament, Practical Theology, Systematic Theology, Theological Ethics).

TRANSITIONAL ARRANGEMENTS

- Students retain credits for all modules passed under the old BTh curriculum.
- Consult the transitional arrangements to the new BTh curriculum that are included under the entries of Scripture Studies (SCR), Theologies in Context (TIC), Congregational Ministry (CGM) and Community Ministry (CMM) in Part 2 of the Calendar.
- The modules listed in Table 2 have either been moved from one track to another or discontinued. Students will retain credit for all these modules in the new curriculum if a module has been moved. A student has the option to retain credit for such a module in its former track or to transfer it to the new track.

TABLE 2: MODULES FROM THE OLD BTH CURRICULUM THAT HAVE BEEN EITHER MOVED TO ANOTHER TRACK OR DISCONTINUED.

Former code	New code
SCR111X	discontinued
SCR112Y	ECH2601
SCR3015	discontinued
SCR3026	discontinued
SCR3038	discontinued
SCR3049	discontinued
SCR305A	discontinued
SCR306B	TIC3705
SCR307C	discontinued
SCR308J	discontinued
SCR309E	absorbed into ECH3704
TIC301B	CMM2601
TIC302T	CMM3705
TIC303D	Merged to become TIC3703 (formerly TIC311D)
TIC305F	
TIC308J	TIC2604
CGM301S	discontinued
CGM306X	discontinued
CGM310T	CMM2603
CMM304W	discontinued
CMM305X	CGM3704
CMM306Y	TIC3704
CMM3084	discontinued
CMM3095	discontinued
CMM310U	ECH3703

- New students and students who have at the end of 2008 completed eight (8) or less of the following modules (SCR111X, SCR112Y, TIC1116, TIC1128, CGM111N, CGM112P, CMM111P, CMM112Q) will automatically switch to the new curriculum in 2009 (see Table 1).
- For students who have completed nine (9) or more modules in the old curriculum of the 'comprehensive' BTh by the end of 2008, see the transitional arrangements in the entries of the four tracks Scripture Studies, Theologies in Context, Congregational Ministry, Community Ministry in Part 2 of the Calendar. In their case the following basic arrangement will apply: In order to obtain the BTh degree, a student will be required to pass 10 first level (level 5) modules and a total of 20 modules at level 6 and 7 (formerly called 'advanced level' modules). These 20 modules need to be placed in the four BTh tracks but may also be in the fifth ('other') track (containing modules from non-theological subjects), provided that:
 - (a) no less than 2 modules are taken in each BTh track;
 - (b) no more than 7 'advanced level' modules are taken in any one track;
 - (c) the capstone module (BTH3720) is counted as one of the seven 'advanced level' modules of a major in a particular track.
- For students who have completed nine (9) or more modules in the old curriculum of the BTh in Pastoral Counselling or the BTh in Urban Ministry by the end of 2008, see the transitional arrangements below.

BTh (with specialisation in Pastoral Counselling) (PCM)

NB

No new registrations have been accepted in this programme since 2007. Students who enrolled for it before 2007 have until 2010 to complete the programme.

FIRST LEVEL

This level comprises the following 10 compulsory modules:

OTS1501	: Introduction to ancient Israelite literature (Old Testament 1501)
ECH1501	: Introduction to early Christian literature, theology, history and archaeology (Scripture Studies 1501)
TIC1501	: Reflections on faith (Theologies in Context 1501)
TIC1502	: Introduction to the study of church history (Theologies in Context 1502)
CGM1501	: Invitation to theology (Congregational Ministry 1501)
CGM1502	: First steps in practical theology (Congregational Ministry 1502)
CMM1501	: Ethics and life (Community Ministry 1501)
CMM1502	: The dynamics of mission (Community Ministry 1502)
PYC101Y	: Basic psychology (Psychology 101)
PYC1023	: Psychology in society (Psychology 102)

SECOND AND THIRD LEVEL

This level comprises 20 modules the following 13 of which are compulsory:

- PYC205A : Community psychology: re-imagining community (Psychology 205)
MGG201W : Marriage guidance and counselling (Marriage Guidance and Counselling 201)
MGG202X : Marriage guidance and counselling: sexual trauma (Marriage Guidance and Counselling 202)

NB

Students who passed MGC200 prior to 2001 need not register for the modules MGG201 and MGG202)

- PYC305D : Transformative counselling encounters (Psychology 305)
ECH3705 : Early christian spirituality (Scripture Studies 3705)
CMM3705 : Christian moral decision-making (Community Ministry 3705)
CGM3703 : Caring for all: exploring the field of pastoral work (Congregational Ministry 3703)
CGM3704 : The research challenge: doing empirical research in theology (Congregational Ministry 3704)
PCM301S : Engaging in pastoral care and counselling discourse (Pastoral Counselling 301)
PCM302T : Exploring pastoral care and counselling praxis (Pastoral Counselling 302)
PCM303U : Supervised pastoral care and counselling with individuals, couples and families (Pastoral Counselling 303)
PCM304V : Supervised pastoral care and counselling with groups and communities (Pastoral Counselling 304)
BTH3720 : Integrated theological praxis

plus 7 second- and third-level (advanced) modules: at least 2 modules in Congregational Ministry, and at least one module in each of Scripture Studies, Theologies in Context and Community Ministry. A maximum of 2 second and third-level modules may be taken from programmes offered by other schools or colleges.

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Pass and pass with distinction

- (1) Pass
See Rule G22 in Part 1 of the Calendar
- (2) Pass with distinction
 - (i) Candidates shall pass a track with distinction if they obtain an average of at least 75% in five of the seven modules taken on second and/or third level.
 - (ii) To be awarded the degree with distinction candidates must pass nine modules in one track with an average of at least 75% in five of the seven modules on second and/or third level as well as an average of 75% in the second major subject
or
an average of 75% in three second- and/or third-level modules in each of the four tracks.