

Diploma in Christian Studies (Theological Studies) DipCS(TS)*

Level 5, 120 credits

Programme Summary

On completion of the Diploma in Christian Studies students will have developed the capacity to tell the biblical story, to read the Scriptures within their wider historical context and to understand a theological framework for life and ministry. Students will have begun the process of developing the disciplines necessary both to maintain their own spiritual growth and to serve in voluntary leadership capacities within the church and in our world.

The Theological Studies strand provides students with an introduction to biblical studies, theological studies and spiritual formation while preparing them to live out the Gospel of Christ, engaging thoughtfully and compassionately in the world.

Flexible Study Options

This programme allows for a range of flexible learning options, including a combination of on campus and Distance Learning courses, as well as part-time study. Students can study towards the DipCS(TS) on campus in Henderson, Christchurch, by Distance Learning, or at one of our partner institutions.

Students who complete the DipCS(TS) may staircase into the second year of the Bachelor of Theology.

Programme Requirements

The DipCS(TS) is a one year full-time (or part-time equivalent) programme. It is made up of eight level 5, 15-credit courses.

2026 Fees

Domestic: \$944.25 per 15-credit course. **\$7,554** for one year (8 courses, 120 credits).

International: \$3,195 per 15-credit course. **\$25,560** for one year (8 courses, 120 credits).

NOTE: Annual fee may vary. A Student Services fee of \$4.20 per credit is charged for on-campus courses or \$63 per semester for distance learning. Please refer to Fee Schedule for more details (www.laidlaw.ac.nz/fees)

* This programme leads to the New Zealand Diploma in Christian Studies (Level 5) Theological Studies Strand.

Courses

115.515 D READING THE BIBLE

Approach the Bible from the perspective of biblical theology, which allows the Bible to tell its own story as a unified grand narrative that culminates in the person and work of Jesus Christ. Explore the unity, diversity, and central themes of the Bible to make sense of the relationship between the Bible, theology, and all of life.

120.515 D READING THE OLD TESTAMENT

Explore the Old Testament and its world. You will be introduced to basic skills of textual interpretation and the application of Old Testament texts to contemporary contexts.

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201.515 D ENGAGING THEOLOGY

Be introduced to systematic theology and learn to think theologically. You will examine God's self-revelation, how that revelation can be understood, and why it is foundational for Christian faith. Explore the arrangement of this revelation into a set of core beliefs and their application to everyday living.

308.515 D CHRISTIAN HISTORY: OUR STORY

Develop an integrative understanding of how Christian theology, practice, culture, and institutions have developed over history, such that you can better narrate the wider context of your leadership and ground your own Christian experience.

401.515 D FORMATION

Reflect on personal and communal spiritual formation, through engagement with Scripture, theological understandings, and a variety of Christian spiritual traditions.

505.515 D CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP & MISSION

Apply a lens of Christian leadership and mission to the evaluation of personal and community faith journeys, ministry programmes within your context, and your own emerging sense of call and mission.

907.515 D BICULTURAL RELATIONSHIPS: TIKANGA KAWENATA

Be introduced to Tikanga Māori on the basis of understanding people in their contexts. It combines theological, theoretical, and historical reflection with the development of practices drawn from an integration of these. You will also be provided with an overview of tikanga Māori and theological views of kawenata (covenant) and justice and their application within community leadership in Aotearoa. There will be regular oral activities aimed at developing fluency in the use of te reo and tikanga in a range of settings. The culmination of this oral learning is participation in the Noho Marae, where an overnight stay on a marae provides an integrated opportunity to engage with Māori culture beyond the classroom.

By the end of this programme graduates will be able to:

1. Evaluate and apply a broad understanding of theology and biblical foundations to defined contexts based on textual interpretation and religious practice.
2. Evaluate faith-based programmes and/or practices based on strategies that integrate a personal and community faith journey, and the social, cultural and other contextual considerations of defined groups.
3. Integrate core tools of theology, biblical texts and practice, and apply these to the broader community to provide leadership and direction that is culturally and ethically appropriate.

READY TO APPLY? ANY QUESTIONS?

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UPDATED 7 OCTOBER 2025