

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 and prepares them to live out the Gospel of Christ, engaging thoughtfully and compassionately in the world.

Flexible Study Options

Students can study towards the DipCS(TS) on campus in Henderson, Manukau, Christchurch, by Distance Learning or at one of our partner colleges. This programme also 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 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.

2022 Fees

\$796.50 per 15-credit course

\$3,186 per semester full-time (4 courses, 60 credits)

\$6,372 for the full programme (8 courses, 120 credits)

A Student Services fee of \$4 per credit is charged for on-campus courses.

A one-off Student Services Fee of \$60 per semester is charged for Distance Learning course enrolments.

Please see the Fees Schedule for more details (www.laidlaw.ac.nz/fees).

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

Courses

115.515 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 READING THE OLD TESTAMENT

Explore a broad understanding of the Old Testament and be introduced to the interpretation and application of the Old Testament in church, mission, and/or community.

140.515 READING THE NEW TESTAMENT

Explore a broad understanding of New Testament foundations, and their interpretation and application within church, mission, and community contexts.

201.515 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. You will then explore the arrangement of this revelation into a set of core beliefs and their application to everyday living.

308.515 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.

401.515 FORMATION

Explore personal and communal spiritual formation, through engagement with Scripture, theological understandings, and a range of Christian spiritual practices. This reflection will include (1) evaluation of key aspects of your own formation, (2) evaluation of your experiences of personal and communal strategies intended to facilitate spiritual growth, and (3) the development of spiritual practices which will foster your spiritual formation and strengthen your contribution to enhancing human wellbeing within your own social and cultural contexts.

505.515 CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP & MISSION

Explore Christian leadership and mission by means of the evaluation of personal and community faith journeys, ministry programmes within your context, and your own emerging sense of call and mission.

907.515 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 a ministry programme based on strategies that integrate personal and community faith journeys, and the social, cultural and other contextual considerations of defined groups.
3. Integrate core tools of theology, biblical texts and ministry 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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