

Bachelor of Social Science



The Bachelor of Social Science is intended for students who wish to develop the extensive knowledge, skills and competencies required for professional practice in counselling. It combines rigorous coursework, experiential learning and mentoring relationships into a comprehensive educational experience that is designed to equip graduates to work effectively in counselling, chaplaincy and related fields in either Christian or non-Christian environments. The degree enables students to develop a personal and professional framework for counselling through the integration of the Scriptures and critical analysis of psychological principals and the major counselling modalities.

The teaching curriculum emphasises the Christian ethos and promotes the study of the whole person, including the spiritual dimension. Awareness of the need to understand the importance of spirituality as a dimension of humanness and as a dimension of the therapeutic alliance and process is accentuated throughout the degree. In addition the course recognises the increasingly pluralistic backdrop of Australian society and therefore highlights the need to prepare students to work appropriately with clients from diverse backgrounds whose cultural, ethnic and spiritual views may differ considerably from their own.

The Bachelor of Social Science aims to deliver a program that promotes the enhancement of skills and knowledge acquisition with a focus on understanding research and evidence based practice. The course seeks to equip individuals with an advanced and integrated knowledge base regarding human behaviour, thought and emotion and addresses the complex processes involved in social groups and relationships. In addition the degree equips students to understand the complexity of psychological problems as it addresses a range of presenting issues which impact adversely on the capacity of individuals to function in an adaptive fashion. A wide variety of theoretical models are taught with an emphasis on integrative approaches.

The objective of the course is to prepare counsellors and chaplains to work in a variety of settings with a diverse range of clients. The curriculum emphasises the development of personal competencies combined with an advanced knowledge base and the applied skills required for registered counsellors. The course aims to encourage and equip students and to produce self-reflexive counsellors and chaplains who are able to understand and utilise evidence-based counselling approaches and therapeutic skills that are effective, holistic, appropriate and ethical.

On successful completion of the course, graduates will be equipped to provide counselling and chaplaincy in Christian environments and community settings such as schools, youth services, non-government organisations, correction and rehabilitation facilities and other social support services.



About the Course

- Duration: 3 years full time or part time equivalent
- FEE-HELP Available
- Austudy Approved
- Online or Classroom Based Delivery

Entry Requirements

Minimum Academic Qualifications:

Completion of the Year 12 Certificate of Education with an ATAR result of no less than 60, or the completion of the overseas equivalent qualification.

Mandatory Interview

An interview is required for all applicants in order to:

- Ascertain the applicant's suitability to undertake the course.
- Clarify the applicant's academic history and sight original qualifications.
- Assess eligibility for advanced standing, and
- Discuss any special needs the applicant may have.

Mature-aged Applicants

The relevant criteria are:

- The applicant should be at least 21 years old, and
- Have evidence of the completion of other formal studies, appropriate life experience, and a level of intellectual capacity and social maturity to engage in tertiary studies.

Non-academic entry criteria normally include:

- At least twelve months experience as a committed Christian;
- A reference letter, endorsing the application, and
- Where the candidate is from the non-English speaking background they are required to have an IELTS with a minimum overall score of 6.5, with no band less than 6.0.

Special admission categories / Alternative admission arrangements

Previous Acceptance for Admission at another institution:

- The applicant is invited to provide verifiable evidence of having been accepted for admission to a cognate course at an Australian university or a recognised institution of higher education within the previous five years.

The College reserves the right to disregard any of the above non-academic entry criteria when it is satisfied that the ability, experience and spiritual standing of an applicant are sufficient to give the applicant a good chance of completing the relevant course successfully.

Course Structure

The Bachelor of Social Science degree has two exit points:

- Completing 16 subjects qualifies the student for the **Associate Degree of Social Science**.
- Completing 24 subjects qualifies the student for the **Bachelor of Social Science**.
- See Sample Progression.



Sample Progression		
Year	Subject	
First Year	Critical Thinking & Writing Skills	
	Counselling Skills One	
	Human Lifespan Development	
	World Views and Counselling	
	Spiritual Formation	
	Counselling Skills Two	
	Counseling Theories and Practice	
	Introduction to Marriage and Family Counselling	
Second Year	Biblical Interpretation Theory and Practice	
	Introduction to Psychology	
	Marriage and Family Therapies	
	Professional Ethics	
	Introduction to Christian Theology	
	Emotion Focused/Acceptance Commitment Therapy	
	Grief and Loss Counselling	
	Psychological Disorders	
Third Year	Counselling Major	Chaplaincy Major
	Self Care	Self Care
	Introduction to Group Work	Intercultural Ministry in Australia
	Counselling Practicum Part A	Chaplaincy Practicum Part A
	Crisis Intervention/Trauma Counselling	Crisis Intervention/Trauma Counselling
	Counselling Practicum Part B	Chaplaincy Practicum Part B
	Narrative Therapy/Positive Psychology	Pastoral Care
	Two electives from:	Counselling & Pastoral Care for the Aging
	Addiction Counselling	One elective from:
	Cross-Cultural Counselling	Addiction Counselling
	Special Counselling Elective	Cross-Cultural Counselling