Master of Divinity and Related Programs

PC530D
Christian Spirituality

Semester 2, 2016

Malyon College
is an approved institution of the
Australian College of Theology

PC530D Christian Spirituality is offered by Malyon College as part of the Bachelor of Ministry, Bachelor of Theology and Related Programs, authorized for distance and contact delivery by the Malyon College. These are accredited awards of the Australian College of Theology (ACT).
Malyon College

At Malyon we recognise that the world is changing. These are times of great challenge and opportunity. Our commitment is to raising up a generation of influential Christians who have a strong biblical base, skills in leadership and ministry, and a heart for God.

We have been training Christian leaders for over 100 years, and we’ve learnt a few things about theological training. Our graduates are serving all over the world as pastors, cross-cultural workers, workplace leaders, chaplains, church leaders and theological faculty.

Malyon offers full-time and part-time study options through lecture, intensive and distance modes. We have excellent resources for students including a large library, wireless internet and 24 hour access to the campus. All our awards are accredited through the Australian College of Theology.

The Australian College of Theology

The ACT was established under the auspices of the General Synod of the Anglican Church of Australia in 1891. The ACT is a company limited by guarantee governed by a nine-member Board of Directors. The Anglican Primate of Australia presides as the chairman of meetings of the company which consists of 54 persons (in 2010). The ACT is an Australasian provider of state accredited higher education courses leading to awards in theology and other disciplines related to Christian ministry. The ACT operates as an ecumenical consortium of some 2,500 students enrolled in 19 Bible and theological colleges approved to teach the awards of the ACT. These awards range from two-year diplomas, three-year undergraduate and coursework masters degrees to masters and doctoral research degrees.

The ACT has a centrally devised and managed curriculum and a quality assurance process that are applied across the whole network of affiliated colleges. The day-to-day educational system is managed by the Dean from the ACT office in Sydney. Academic governance is the responsibility of the Academic Board which oversees all academic activities of the College. The standing committees of the Academic Board share this responsibility by monitoring the quality of delivery and resourcing, developing policy, and reviewing the course structure for research, coursework and diploma courses. The membership of the Academic Board and its committees is comprised mostly of faculty members of affiliated colleges. A number of senior university academics are represented to help ensure that ACT practice (especially in the outcome of the consideration of research examiner’s reports and general academic policy) remains comparable with the standards of and best practice in the university sector.

As a HEP under the Higher Education Support Act, the College was required to undergo a quality audit conducted by the Australian Universities Quality Agency (AUQA). The AUQA Audit Report was publicly released on the AUQA website in February 2007.

In 2010 the company consists of 54 members composed in the following way:
(1) the Anglican Primate of Australian and the Dean of the ACT,
(2) the principals of 10 Anglican Theological Colleges,
(3) 21 persons elected by the House of Bishops of the General Synod,
(4) the principals of 11 affiliated colleges approved to deliver the research degrees of the ACT,
(5) 5 graduates holding an ACT research degree,
(6) 5 graduates holding any other degree of the ACT.
## UNIT DETAILS

### Unit Description

PC530 Christian Spirituality is a foundational-level elective unit in the Pastoral and Church-Focussed Ministries field. It focuses on themes such as spirituality for Christian life and ministry, historical spirituality and spiritual disciplines for spiritual formation.

### Credit Points

This unit is valued at 4 credit points.

### Co- and Pre-Requisites

None.

### Exclusions

PC527 and PC628

### Unit Content

The unit is made up of the following sections and sub-sections:

#### Section A: Spirituality for Christian Life and Ministry (50%)

1. Defining spirituality and spiritual formation: their nature, function and goals, and the factors that give rise to the variety of patterns of spirituality.

2. Biblical patterns of spirituality: Old Testament and New Testament models, elements such as encounter with God, renewal of the mind, vocation, accountability and community, recreation, work, spiritual warfare, justice and mercy.


5. Growing in a context of spiritual opposition and divine help. A study (biblical, theological and contemporary) of the influence of spirit beings (the Holy Spirit, angelic and demonic) on personal spiritual growth.

#### Section B: Historical Spirituality (15%)

6. A brief exposure to at least two historical expressions of Christian spirituality with special focus on the contextual factors involved in their formation and the implications for today.
Section C: Spiritual Disciplines for Spiritual Formation (35%)

7. The functions and misuse of the spiritual disciplines in spiritual formation.

8. Disciplines of the inner life, including prayer, silence, solitude, self-examination, confession, Bible study, meditation, contemplation, fasting, and journaling. Special attention should be given to the devotional use of Scripture in the context of biblical scholarship (Lectio Divina).

9. Lifestyle disciplines, including simplicity, giving, hospitality, chastity, Sabbath observance, and service.

10. Corporate disciplines, including worship, guidance and discernment, submission and authority, fellowship and community, confession and spiritual direction.

Unit Outcomes

On successful completion of this unit, students will:

Knowledge and understanding. Know and understand
1. Spirituality in Christian life and ministry
2. Histories of Christian spirituality
3. Christian spiritual formation
4. Selected approaches to Christian spirituality

Skills. Be able to
1. Discuss spirituality and spiritual formation
2. Analyse biblical patterns and theologies of Christian spirituality
3. Explain the diversity of Christian spiritualities with particular reference to two historical expressions
4. Assess the use of the disciplines for spiritual formation
5. Evaluate selected approaches to Christian spirituality

Application. Be in a position to
1. Integrate perspectives from their other theological studies into an approach to Christian spiritual formation
2. Practice the disciplines for spiritual formation in personal life and ministry contexts

Workload Requirement

A unit will generally require about 10 hours per week for lectures for contact students or home study for distance students, preparation and revision, and assignment work over thirteen weeks. In addition, two study weeks are worked into each semester. Excluding the study weeks, this generally averages out as follows:

1. Contact students:
   a. Lectures – 3 hours per week;
   b. Preparation – 2 hours per week;
   c. Assignments – 5 hours per week.
2. Distance students:
   a. Home study; including forums and revisions – 5 hours per week;
   b. Assignments – 5 hours per week.

**Learning Guides**

Students should access the Learning Guides on the unit Moodle page for guidance through their studies for the semester.

**Assessment Requirements**

You will need to complete the following assessment requirements:

1. Major essay OR major book review on spirituality for Christian life and ministry (3000 words; 50%)
2. Personal interactive reflection on a classic historical document from the history of Christian devotion (1000 words; 15%)
3. Integrative study of a spiritual discipline (half of the marks are allocated to theory, and the other half to journal reflection and personal application) (2000 words, 35%)
4. Weekly forum post (compulsory for online students, but not assessed)

Contact students will be expected to attend all lectures; while the forum posts are the distance student’s equivalent of classroom interaction. Just as class attendance is compulsory for on-campus students, forum participation is compulsory for distance students.

Students who fail to attend lectures or complete forum posts satisfactorily may be failed.

**Required Resources**

You’ll be greatly helped in this unit (though it is not compulsory) if you have access to the following book:


But most of the resources you need will be posted on Moodle (weekly Learning Guides and other readings). So please make sure that you are a regular visitor to the PC530D Christian Spirituality Moodle page! The Module Learning Guides will be written progressively during the course of the semester.
## Learning Schedule, Semester 2, 2016. Week commencing:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module/Week</th>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Topic/s</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>18 July</td>
<td>Unit introduction. What is Christian Spirituality, and why is it important?</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>25 July</td>
<td>Varieties of Christian spirituality: navigating the maze (1)</td>
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<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>1 Aug</td>
<td>Varieties of Christian spirituality: navigating the maze (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>8 Aug</td>
<td>Old Testament foundations</td>
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<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>15 Aug</td>
<td>New Testament foundations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>22 Aug</td>
<td>Theological study of biblical patterns</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>29 Aug</td>
<td>Implications of the biblical foundations for contemporary spirituality</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>5 Sept</td>
<td>Christian spirituality and spiritual opposition</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>12 Sept</td>
<td>Learning from history: some classics of Christian devotion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>3 Oct</td>
<td>The functions and misuse of the spiritual disciplines in spiritual formation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>10 Oct</td>
<td>Disciplines of the inner life: prayer, silence, solitude, self-examination, confession, devotional approaches to studying the Bible, meditation, contemplation, fasting, journaling</td>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>17 Oct</td>
<td>Lifestyle spiritual disciplines: simplicity, giving, hospitality, chastity, Sabbath observance, service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>24 Oct</td>
<td>Corporate spiritual disciplines: worship, guidance and discernment, submission and authority, fellowship and community, confession and spiritual direction</td>
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<tr>
<td>31 Oct</td>
<td>Study Week 3</td>
<td>Study Week 3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The unit PC530D Christian Spirituality is taught by Rev Dr D L Morcom. Although my given name is “Donald,” everyone has called me “D” (my initial) since I was about three days old. I was born in Brisbane but spent most of my childhood and youth and much of my adulthood in South Africa, where my parents served as missionaries. I have been a passionate Christ-follower for as long as I can remember. My professional background was in the printing industry and in Christian publishing. I studied at the Baptist Theological College of Southern Africa (LThHons) and at the University of South Africa (BA). After serving as pastor of two Baptist churches in the Johannesburg area, I studied at the Southern Baptist Theological Seminary in Louisville, Kentucky in the United States (MDiv, PhD). I was then appointed lecturer and later Principal of the Baptist Theological College in Johannesburg, where I taught for thirteen and a half years. I and my family returned to Australia in 2002. After three years of pastoral ministry I was appointed to Malyon College at the beginning of 2005, where I presently serve as lecturer.

I am married to Jackie, and we have three adult children, all of whom are married (Michelle, Bryan and Joanne), four grandchildren (so far!), and an energetic golden Labrador.

Contact details:
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E-mail d.morcom@malyon.edu.au
UNIT ASSESSMENT

Assessment Instructions

In completing assessments, students should note that:

1. The **College requirements** for the writing and submission of assignments are to be adhered to at all times, as marks will be deducted for incorrect and poor presentation. Of particular importance is that the official College title page is to be used, and that the word length be indicated.

2. The current **Assignment Style and Writing Guides** are available to all students on the Moodle site; it should be studied, both when starting out and at the beginning of each academic year as adjustments or changes may be made from time-to-time.

3. The **due date** is non-negotiable; in exceptional circumstances students are to adhere to College protocol for requesting permission for late submission. Penalties for late submission are set at 5% per College week. The Assignment Style Guide contains details of the protocols to be followed.

4. With respect to **length**, students are permitted to write at a length of 10% either side of the stated length; for example, a 1000-word assignment should be within a 900-1100 word length. Students will be penalized 1% per 100 words, or part thereof, under or over the stipulated length.

5. With respect to the **List of References**, a specific number of references will not be set; however, students should note the guidelines indicated for the specific assessment requirement. However, students should note that:
   a. Bibles (including study Bibles), basic dictionaries and devotional guides are not regarded as academic references.
   b. Electronic sources should generally not number more than half the required number of references, and should be used with caution.

6. The failure to adhere to the stipulated assessment **format** requirements will be penalized as follows:
   a. **Body of assignment**:
      i. 1<sup>st</sup> level – 1%
      ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent levels – 2%
   b. **List of References and referencing**:
      i. 1<sup>st</sup> level – 1%
      ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> and subsequent levels – 2%
Grade Criteria

Graduate Diploma and Master’s students at the foundational graduate degree 500-level should note that grades are awarded on the following criteria:

Units at a foundational level introduce graduate students to the introductory features, broad scope and principles of a discipline or topic. The study of primary sources and the principles underlying their analysis are introduced, especially in Biblical Studies and Church History and where relevant in other fields of study. The foundation for the critical evaluation of ideas is established.

Pass
✓ Demonstrates an engagement with primary sources
✓ Has begun to grasp the foundational features of the discipline.
✓ Is beginning to engage with a range of scholarly viewpoints.

Credit
✓ Demonstrates ability in engaging the primary sources, is beginning to understand their setting and historical context.
✓ Evidences a grasp of the foundational features of the discipline.
✓ Demonstrates emerging skills in the task of critically evaluating a range of scholarly viewpoints.

Distinction
✓ Demonstrates pronounced ability in engaging primary sources and understands their setting and historical context.
✓ Evidences a sound grasp of the foundational features of the discipline.
✓ Shows an ability to evaluate critically a range of scholarly viewpoints with empathy.

High Distinction
✓ Demonstrates pronounced ability in the analysis of primary sources and understands their setting and historical context.
✓ Evidences a confident grasp of the foundational features of the discipline.
✓ Exhibits an ability to evaluate and assess empathetically a range of scholarly viewpoints that suggests the emergence of independent thinking and research skills required at early postgraduate level.
**ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS**

**Requirement 1: Major Essay on Spirituality for Christian Life and Ministry (3000 words; 50%)**

Choose **ONE** of the following topics:

1. Write a detailed, critical and interactive book review of **ONE** of the following, paying particular attention to the contribution the book makes to the practical dimension of “Cultivating Spirituality for Christian Life and Ministry”. What are the main insights you have derived from the book about cultivating your own Christian spirituality? Suggest how you would go about teaching these insights to a specific Christian group of your choice **OR** implementing these insights in a Christian ministry setting of your choice.


2. What major Old Testament themes are foundational for “Cultivating Spirituality for Christian Life and Ministry”, and how do these themes suggest the shape and practical outworking of such a spirituality? Suggest how you would go about teaching these insights to a specific Christian group of your choice OR implementing these insights in a Christian ministry setting of your choice.

3. What major New Testament themes are foundational for “Cultivating Spirituality for Christian Life and Ministry”, and how do these themes suggest the shape and practical outworking of such a spirituality? Suggest how you would go about teaching these insights to a specific Christian group of your choice OR implementing these insights in a Christian ministry setting of your choice.

4. Write a detailed essay on Paul’s teaching on the concept “in Christ”, and explain how this concept should inform and shape the theoretical foundations and practical outworking of Christian spirituality. Suggest how you would go about teaching these insights to a specific Christian group of your choice OR implementing these insights in a Christian ministry setting of your choice.

5. Write a detailed essay on “the imitation of Christ”, addressing the following issues: What are the New Testament foundations for the concept of “the imitation of Christ”? In what main ways has “the imitation of Christ” been understood? What possible dangers are there in the pursuit of “the imitation of Christ”, and how can such dangers be avoided? In what ways does the concept of “the imitation of Christ” contribute to the cultivation of Christian spirituality for life and ministry? Suggest how you would go about teaching these insights to a specific Christian group of your choice OR implementing these insights in a Christian ministry setting of your choice.

The key assessment criteria for this requirement are as follows:

Topic 1: Book Review
   1. Full bibliographical information for the chosen book is provided at the beginning.
   2. Brief biographical information is provided for the author of the book, focussing particularly on what qualifies the author to write on this topic.
   3. The content of the book and its argument are reflected clearly in the review.
   4. The review provides even coverage of the entire book.
   5. The review includes a brief critical assessment of how well the book accomplishes its aims.
   6. Particular attention is paid to the contribution the book makes to the practical dimension of “Cultivating Spirituality for Christian Life and Ministry”.
   7. Particular attention is paid to insights you have derived from the book about cultivating your own personal Christian spirituality.
   8. The review complies with Malyon’s technical requirements for assignment writing.

Topics 2, 3, 4 and 5
   1. The essay demonstrates clear awareness of what the topic requires, and remains focussed on the topic.
   2. There is sustained engagement with the Scriptures and pertinent secondary sources.
   3. Particular attention is paid to the contribution your research makes to the practical dimension of “Cultivating Spirituality for Christian Life and Ministry”.

PC30D Christian Spirituality
4. Particular attention is paid to insights you have derived from your research about cultivating your own personal Christian spirituality.
5. The essay complies with Malyon’s technical requirements for assignment writing.

Length: 3000 words

References: For Topic 1 (critical book review) the book you have chosen will be the primary resource; other resources as appropriate (you should not write this review in a total bibliographical vacuum!) For Topics 2 through 5, at least EIGHT quality resources in addition to the Bible

Due: Friday 2 September 2016, by electronic submission on Moodle

Mark allocation: 50%
Requirement 2: Personal Interactive Reflection on a Classic Document from the History of Christian Devotion (1000 words; 15%)

For any ONE of the following, provide a brief historical context (250 words maximum) and write a personal interactive reflection. All of these documents are posted on the Moodle page for this unit.

Tertullian, “On Prayer”
Origen, “On Prayer”
Martin Luther, “A Simple Way to Pray: For Peter the Barber”
John Calvin, “Prayer: which is the Chief Exercise of Faith, and by which we daily receive God’s benefits” (Institutes 3.20)
John Bunyan, “I will pray with the Spirit, and I will pray with the understanding also: or, a Discourse Touching Prayer”

The key assessment criteria for this requirement are as follows:

1. The essay is focussed on personal, reflective interaction with your chosen document.
2. The entire document receives even coverage.
3. Particular attention is paid to insights you have derived from your document about the practice of prayer in cultivating your own personal Christian spirituality.
4. The essay complies with Malyon’s technical requirements for assignment writing.

Length: 1000 words

References: Your chosen document is the primary focus; a couple of additional resources (historical and devotional), which help to inform your reflection

Due: Friday 30 September 2016 by electronic submission on Moodle

Mark allocation: 15%
**Requirement 3: Integrative Study of a Spiritual Discipline (2000 words; 35%)**

**NOTE:** This is a five-week practical exercise, preceded by a theoretical exercise which must be completed before the commencement of the practical exercise. **With the exception of prayer (which was the focus of Requirement 2),** choose any ONE of the other spiritual disciplines mentioned in Section C of the unit outline (see page 4 above) and do the following:

1. Make your own theoretical study of the spiritual discipline you have chosen with the help of such books as Richard Foster’s *Celebration of Discipline*, Adele Ahlberg Calhoun’s *Spiritual Disciplines Handbook*, and similar resources. Write a 1000-word essay defining the discipline, setting out its scriptural justification, describing how it is practised, and suggesting expected outcomes. **This part of the exercise must be completed by Friday 9 September 2016.**

2. Engage in the intentional practice of the spiritual discipline you have chosen during the five weeks from Saturday 10 September to Friday 14 October. During this time, write a weekly journal entry (about 150 words for each entry), describing your actual practice of the discipline during the previous week and reflecting on issues such as benefits received, difficulties encountered, insights gained and refinements in practice made during the process. How has your experience confirmed or differed from the expectations you expressed in the theoretical work you did before the practical implementation of the discipline? From your own experience, what is the overall value of the discipline you have chosen for cultivating Christian spirituality? Suggest how you would go about teaching these insights to a specific Christian group of your choice OR implementing these insights in a Christian ministry setting of your choice.

The **key assessment criteria** for this requirement are as follows:

**Theoretical Study:**
1. The chosen discipline is clearly defined and described.
2. The biblical foundations of the discipline are explained.
3. The study offers basic guidelines on the aims and practice of the discipline.
4. The essay complies with Malyon’s technical requirements for assignment writing.

**Journal:**
1. The journal comprises five weekly entries of approximately 150 words each.
2. The journal focuses on your own personal experience of practising the discipline in light of the issues raised in part 2 of the topic above.
3. The journal includes your own honest appraisal, based on your experience of the five weeks, of the value of the discipline for cultivating Christian spirituality.

**Length:** 2000 words (Theoretical Study 1000 words; Journal 5 x 200 words)

**References:** Theoretical Study – the Bible plus three or four pertinent sources; Journal – none required

**Due:** Friday 21 October 2016, by electronic submission on Moodle, **but you will need to start work by the beginning of September at the latest, to keep up with the process.**

**Mark allocation:** 35%
**Requirement 4: Weekly forum posts**

At the end of each Module Learning Guide, all thirteen of them, you will find a reflection topic or a question which is related to some aspect of the material. For each of these, please post on the Moodle forum a brief but meaningful response not later than the Monday of the following week. (So, for example, your forum posting for Module 1, which commences on Monday 18 July 2016, is due not later than Monday 25 July 2016, and so on). There is no mark value attached to these forum postings, but for distance/online students they are a compulsory component of the assessment, and are intended to make up in some way for the fact that you do not have the benefit of the classroom experience.

There is no formal word length for these forum postings; by “brief” I mean a paragraph or two, and by “meaningful” I mean that I want to see evidence that you have given at least some serious thought to the issues raised. Ideally, your response will contain a personal element: for example, how is the topic or question relevant to your own personal faith development, what new understanding have you gained, or how might you apply what you have learned to your present situation (ministry or otherwise)? No formal “research” is required beyond a considered engagement with the material contained in each Module; similarly, no List of References or technical formatting is required. I do hope that you’ll also interact with the contributions made by other students.

**Length:** “Brief” as defined above  
**References:** None required  
**Due:** A forum posting not later than the Monday of the week following each Module  
**Mark allocation:** None, but “satisfactory” submission of all thirteen forum reflections is compulsory
Developing Christians of Influence

“Then I will give you shepherds after my own heart, who will lead you with knowledge and understanding.”
(Jeremiah 3:15)

Graduate Attribute 1: Personal Maturity – ‘Shepherds with God’s heart’

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>grows a deepening relationship with Jesus</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>is secure in God’s call with a desire and ability to learn and grow</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td></td>
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<td>c.</td>
<td>is self-aware and maintains self-care</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>seeks and builds healthy relationships</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>is committed to living with integrity and prayerful dependence on God</td>
<td>✓</td>
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Graduate Attribute 2: Theological Maturity – ‘Knowledge and understanding of God’s heart’

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<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>knows and trusts the Bible</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>understands the context of diverse theological ideas</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>forms a personal theology which is both biblical and thoughtful</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>reflects theologically and applies the Bible to real life</td>
<td>✓</td>
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<td>e.</td>
<td>is committed to helping others know God’s grace and truth and live God’s way</td>
<td>✓</td>
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Graduate Attribute 3: Ministry Maturity – ‘Knowledgeable and wise shepherds’

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a.</td>
<td>is able to have a godly influence over others</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>b.</td>
<td>possesses skills needed for chosen ministry path</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>c.</td>
<td>understands cultures and contexts and is able to minister in a range of contexts</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>d.</td>
<td>is able to work with and lead a team</td>
<td>✓</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>e.</td>
<td>is committed to serving, evangelising and mentoring others</td>
<td>✓</td>
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1. A major thrust of this unit
2. A contribution that this unit should make
3. A possible function of this unit, but not targeted
4. An unlikely product of this unit

Note: Graduates who have not completed the curricular and non-curricular ministry aspects of Malyon’s courses will tend to be most developed in Graduate Attribute 2.
RECOMMENDED READINGS

The list below provides the learner with references that relate to the unit material and topics under consideration.

**Journals**

*Journal of Spiritual Formation and Soul Care*
*Weavings*

**Books**


**ACT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

**Key Policies**

Students should take note of the following ACT policies:

1. Unit Moderation Policy.
3. Academic Appeals Policy.

**Accessing Documents**

These and other policy documents are publicly available in the following handbooks, through links on ACT’s home page (www.actheology.edu.au):

1. Undergraduate Handbook.
5. Distance Education Handbook.

*These should be read in conjunction with the ‘Recent Updates’ link found on the ACT website.*