Bachelor of Ministry, Bachelor of Theology and Related Programs
Master of Divinity and Related Programs

PC449a & PC649a
Guided Spiritual Formation A

Unit Guide

Semester 1, 2016

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

PC449a & PC649a are offered by Malyon College as part of the Bachelor of Ministry and Bachelor of Theology OR Master of Divinity and Graduate Diploma of Divinity authorized for distance and contact delivery by the college, which is an accredited award 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

Spiritual formation is the growth and development of the whole person by an intentional focus on one’s:

- spiritual and interior life,
- interactions with others in ordinary life,
- Spiritual practices (prayer, the study of scripture, fasting, simplicity, solitude, confession, worship, etc.).

In Christian Spiritual Formation the focus is on Jesus. It is a life-long process as a believer desires to become a disciple of Jesus and become more like him. Dallas Willard (2002, 22) writes that “spiritual formation for the Christian basically refers to the Spirit-driven process of forming the inner world of the human self in such a way that it becomes like the inner being of Christ himself.”

PC449a & PC649a, Guided Spiritual Formation A, is the first in a suite of four GSF units that are completed over four semesters. The GSF units are designed to integrate the various disciplines of a student’s course that contribute to their spiritual formation. At Malyon College, GSF has a particular emphasis on the spirituality of leadership.

The method of GSF is reflection, self-evaluation and growth planning in relation to personal spiritual growth through college activities and ministry experience.

Credit Points

This unit is valued at 1 credit point.

(Standard subjects within the ACT curriculum are worth 4 credit points and are usually completed within 1 semester. GSF is offered in 1 credit point units over 4 semesters.)

Co- and Pre-Requisites

None

Exclusions

None


**Unit Content**

The focus of this unit is upon "**developing intimacy with God**". To successfully complete this Unit, students are required to:

1. participate in the Malyon College Wednesday “Formation Mornings”,
2. record their reflections on their unfolding spiritual journey in their GSF Journal, and
3. participate in a weekly Mentoring Group for reflective processing.

**Unit Outcomes**

On successful completion of this unit, student should be able to:

a) demonstrate a deepening intimacy with God,

b) be committed to their future ministry effectiveness by being fed by repeated times of personal spiritual renewal,

c) articulate a developed broad outline of their own philosophy of ministry,

d) demonstrate a regular reflection on their own personhood and vocation in the light of the truths, skills and commitments gained through their formal education, and

e) articulate a model of growth through personal accountability, mentoring, reading and reflection.

**Workload Requirement**

This unit will generally require about 2.5 hours per week for participation in the Ministry Mornings, Mentoring Groups and completion of the GSF Journal.

**Assessment Requirements**

GSF is graded on pass/fail basis.

The student shall complete the following assessment requirements:

1. Participation in the Wednesday Ministry Mornings.
2. Participation in their Mentoring Group.

**Note:** Students are expected to attend all Ministry Mornings and Mentoring Groups and submit a completed GSF journal to the Mentoring Group leader at the last meeting of the semester. (More than three absences from the Ministry Mornings and Mentoring Groups, apart from exceptional circumstances will result in an Unsatisfactory grade for this Unit).

The GSF Journal should be completed each week before the Mentoring Group and reflect progress towards the attainment of the Unit Outcomes described above.
**Required Resources**

In order to complete the unit, the student will be required to have access to the following resource/s:
A PC449a/649a Guided Spiritual Formation A Journal which will be supplied in the first class.

Additionally, further learning resources will be made available on Moodle, our Online Learning Centre. These resources may include articles, extracts, and other learning activities.

**UNIT LECTURERS AND PREPARERS**

Rev Dr Peter Francis DipT, BEd, MDiv, Grad Theol, MA (Theol), DMin

Peter Francis is Vice Principal, Field Education Director and a lecturer at Malyon College. Peter is married to Wendy who is the Queensland Director of the Australian Christian Lobby. Together they have three married children and ten grandchildren. After a 10 year career as a high school teacher, Peter entered into Pastoral ministry at Cleveland Baptist, having earned his Master of Divinity through Trinity Theological College (USA). Over the past 26 years Peter has pastored at Cleveland Baptist, Beenleigh Baptist and the City Tabernacle Baptist Church, as well as being involved in numerous short term missions in places such as PNG, Bangladesh, Thailand, Cambodia and South America. He has also given two years service as a Regional Consultant with Queensland Baptists and has served on various mission boards such as the Far East Broadcasting Company and Global Interaction. Peter’s theological studies include a Master of Divinity, a Graduate in Theology, a Master of Arts in Theology and a Doctor of Ministry.

Contact details:

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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)

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Attribute 1: Personal Maturity – ‘Shepherds with God’s heart’</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>a. grows a deepening relationship with Jesus</td>
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<tr>
<td>b. is secure in God’s call with a desire and ability to learn and grow</td>
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<tr>
<td>c. is self-aware and maintains self-care</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. seeks and builds healthy relationship</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. is committed to living with integrity and prayerful dependence on God</td>
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<th>Graduate Attribute 2: Theological Maturity – ‘Knowledge and understanding of God’s heart’</th>
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<tr>
<td>a. knows and trusts the Bible</td>
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<td>b. understands the context of diverse theological ideas</td>
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<td>c. forms a personal theology which is both biblical and thoughtful</td>
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<td>d. reflects theologically and applies the Bible to real life</td>
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<td>e. is committed to helping others know God’s grace and truth and live God’s way</td>
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<th>Graduate Attribute 3: Ministry Maturity – ‘Knowledgeable and wise shepherds’</th>
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<td>a. is able to have a godly influence over others</td>
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<td>b. possesses skills needed for chosen ministry path</td>
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<td>c. understands cultures and contexts and is able to minister in a range of contexts</td>
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<tr>
<td>d. is able to work with and lead a team</td>
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<tr>
<td>e. is committed to serving, evangelising and mentoring others</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
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.*