



**Bachelor of Ministry & Diploma of Ministry  
Master of Divinity & Graduate Diploma of Divinity**

# **NT202D The Early New Testament Church**

**(Interim Unit Guide only – Download the Final Unit Guide  
from the Moodle in Week One of Lectures.)**

**Semester 2, 2018**

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

NT202D is offered by Malyon College as part of these courses is authorized for distance and contact delivery by the college, which is an accredited award of the Australian College of Theology (ACT).

**MALYON COLLEGE**  
([www.malyon.edu.au](http://www.malyon.edu.au))

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**  
([www.actheology.edu.au](http://www.actheology.edu.au))

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.

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## Unit Details

### *Unit Description*

The vision of Malyon College is to develop Christians of influence. In order to be a Christian of influence a woman or man needs to have theological maturity. A theologically mature Christian displays a thorough knowledge of the Bible and its history, culture, geography, and theology. They are also able to articulate a personal theological understanding emerging from their knowledge. But to influence others, they also need to be able to interpret and apply the Bible and theological understanding to ministry contexts and situations and communicate their biblical/theological understanding with clarity and conviction. The purpose of the unit is to enable students to encounter, and gain a greater understanding of, the early churches as presented in Acts and the epistles. But it also aims at helping students further develop, apply and communicate their theological understanding that emerges through this study of the early churches.

The unit forms part of the four-unit suite of Bible survey units. Jesus and the Gospels (NT501) and The Early New Testament Church (NT502) aim to give students a broad introduction to the whole New Testament as a piece of literature. Hence the focus is on the “big picture” rather than “deep” exploration of specific passages, which is the focus of the exegesis units. The NT survey units aim to help you to see how the various books fit together into a coherent story and help you to see how you and your Christian community fit within that narrative. These units give you the platform that you will use in your exegesis of specific books, in understanding the way the Church has interpreted them during its history, in developing your theological positions in systematic theology and Christian thought units, and applying the Bible in practical ministry.

### *Credit Points*

This unit is valued at 4 credit points.

### *Co- and Pre-Requisites*

None.

### *Exclusions*

None.

## ***Unit Learning Outcomes***

On successful completion of this unit, students will

A. Know and understand

1. The history, themes, theology and narrative of the Book of Acts
2. The contents, themes and theology of major New Testament Epistles

B. Be able to

1. Outline: a) the history, themes and theology presented in the Book of Acts; and b) the contents, themes and theology of selected New Testament Epistles
2. Trace key developments and emerging patterns in the beginnings and expansion of the early church
3. Describe the issues confronted by and teaching of selected New Testament Books

C. Be in a position to

1. Use perspectives from 'The Early New Testament Church' for personal understanding and in teaching and ministry contexts

## ***Unit Outline***

A study of the historical background and contents of the New Testament, with special reference to the birth and growth of Christianity in the Apostolic age.

### **Section A: The Apostolic Age, with special reference to the birth and growth of Christianity**

1. The birth and nature of the Christian community in Jerusalem (Acts 1–6).
2. Significant events and issues in the spread of Christianity (Acts 7–13).
3. The life and mission of the Apostle Paul.

### **Section B: The Epistles**

1. Romans, Galatians and the Thessalonian correspondence.
2. Paul's relations with the church at Corinth; the Corinthian Epistles.
3. Captivity Epistles and the Pastorals.
4. Hebrews and the Catholic Epistles.
5. Revelation.

## ***Workload Requirement***

A unit will generally require about *10 hours per week* for lectures for on campus students or home study for online students, preparation and study, 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:

- a. Learning Guides & forum posts – 3 hours per week;
- b. Preparation and reading – 2 hours per week;
- c. Assignments – 5 hours per week.

***Please note: forum participation is compulsory for online students.***

It is important for students to realize that there are *four points of learning* for this unit; namely:

1. Learning Guides.
2. Readings from the textbook and other resources.
3. Personal reflection, input and study.
4. Webinar participation (Online students).

As such, students must ensure that they work systematically through all the material and ensure that they fully prepare for the assessment tasks. This will include the responsibility to synthesize the work read and studied in order to adequately complete the assessment tasks.

### ***Learning Guides***

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

## Unit Lecturers



**Rev Dr Ian Hussey** is married to Lynette and they have two daughters. Between 1993 and 2010 Ian was solo/Senior Pastor of Nundah/North-East Baptist church during which time the church grew from 35 to 500 people, including people of 15 different nationalities. Ian commenced at Malyon College in 2011 and is the Director of Postgraduate Studies. He also teaches preaching, pastoral leadership and research methods. Ian attends Windsor Road Baptist Church, an international church in the inner west of Brisbane and has taught conversational English as a cross-cultural outreach for over 15 years. He has degrees in science, education, theology and management. Ian's MTh was on "the soteriological use of *καλεο* by Luke and Paul" and his PhD was on the topic: "The engagement of newcomers in church attendance." His other research interests include church vitality and theological education. Prior to pastoral ministry he was a school teacher in NSW and Queensland. He enjoys music, reading novels and swimming.

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**Denise Powell** holds a BTh (Hons) from the Australian College of Theology and is currently working on her PhD in the Gospel of Luke at the University of Queensland. She's loved biblical narrative since the first time she opened a Bible and is committed to reading it well. In recent years, Denise has been an academic tutor at Malyon, a full-time student, an associate pastor and a stay at home mum – not all at the same time. Denise is married to Andrew and is mother to two young men, Josh and Matt. The Powell family spent 10 years living in California, where Denise established a Kid's Club at her children's public school, led Bible studies at her local Church and did some part time study at Fuller Theological Seminary. Both before and after her time in the US, she worked as an associate pastor at Arana Hills Church of Christ, spending a total of nine years in pastoral ministry there. Denise enjoys playing board games with her family, walking her dog in the forest and chatting with friends. Her life's goal is never to learn how to sew, a goal she is on track to achieve.



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## Unit Schedule

Mod	Date	Preparation	Topic/s	
1	17 July		Unit Introduction	Introduction to Acts
2	24 July	Read Acts 1 – 9	Acts 1 – 9	The Jerusalem church. Stephen and the Hellenists.
Webinar for Online Students Wednesday 25 <sup>th</sup> July 7:30pm				
3	31 Jul	Read Acts 10 – 18	Acts 10 - 18	Early Christian preaching. The Council of Jerusalem.
4	6 Aug	Read Acts 19 – 28	Acts 19 – 28	The Pauline mission and churches. Schism, heresy and external threat in the early church.
5	14 Aug		The NT letters	Introduction to the Pauline Letters The Use of the OT in the early church.
6	21 Aug	Read Galatians, 1 & 2 Thess.	Galatians	1 & 2 Thessalonians
7	28 Aug	1 & 2 Cor. Philemon	1 & 2 Corinthians	Philemon
Task 1 due 31 August				
8	4 Sep	Romans and Philipians	Romans	Philipians
9	11 Sep	Ephesians & Colossians	Ephesians	Colossians
Webinar for Online Students Wednesday 12 <sup>th</sup> September 7:30pm				
10	17 Sep	Read the Pastoral Epistles	The Pastoral Epistles	
	25 Sep	Study Week		
Task 2 due 30 September				
	2 Oct	Study Week		
11	9 Oct	Read 1 & 2 Peter & 1-3 John	1 & 2 Peter	1, 2, 3 John
12	16 Oct	Read Hebrews & the Revelation	Hebrews	The Revelation
13	23 Oct	Read James, Jude	James	Jude Hermeneutics and the Gender Debate
Task 3 due 31 October				
	30 Oct	Study Week		
Semester examinations 2-8 November				
Task 4 due 8 November				

## 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 Writing Guide** is available to all students on the Moodle site; it should be studied by all students, 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 3% per day.** The Assignment Writing Guide contains details of the protocols to be followed.
4. Assessment requirements are to be submitted through the hyperlinks on the Moodle page. The **Turnitin** software will screen your work for plagiarism. If you are concerned about the Originality Report, contact your lecturer.
5. **Files for submission** must be correctly named: Unit Code Requirement Number Surname Initial. For example, NT302DR2 Smith D.
6. 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.
7. 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. Web resources should generally not number more than half the required number of references, and should be used with caution.
8. 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> & 3<sup>rd</sup> level – 2%
  - b. List of References and referencing:
    - i. 1<sup>st</sup> level – 1%
    - ii. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> level – 2%

## ***Grade Criteria***

Units at this level introduce students to the introductory features, broad scope and principles of a discipline or topic appropriate to the content of each unit but not at the breadth and depth required for leaders and teachers in congregations for which vocation the undergraduate degrees in theology and ministry and the Master of Divinity have been devised. It is acknowledged, however, that some students will be already academically equipped and motivated to operate at levels consistent with 300 and even 400 undergraduate level.

### **Pass**

Evidences a basic understanding of the foundational and introductory features of the discipline that intersect with the topic or unit attempts to engage primary sources (if these are relevant to the unit) and is aware of their significance for the discipline

### **Credit**

Shows emerging skills in engaging primary sources and is aware of their significance for the discipline evidences a basic understanding of the foundational features of the discipline shows an awareness of relevant scholarly viewpoints without necessarily engaging these in depth

### **Distinction**

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

### **High Distinction**

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

## Assessment Tasks

### Task 1

Discuss two (2) major issues faced by the early NT Church as reported in Acts (~600 words).  
How did the early NT Church overcome these issues (~400 words)?

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

How well students demonstrate:

1. Engagement with the Scriptures.
2. Engagement with scholarship.
3. An understanding of 2 major issues faced by the early NT Church as reported in Acts.
4. An understanding of how the early NT Church overcame these issues.
5. The ability to write concisely and clearly.
6. The ability to synthesise diverse ideas into a coherent argument.
7. Referencing, spelling and grammatical skills.

**Length: 1000 words**

**References: At least 2**

**Due: 31 August by no later than 11.55 on Moodle**

**Mark allocation: 25%**

**Learning Outcomes addressed: A.1, B.1, B.2**

### Task 2

Discuss three (3) major issues which prompted the writing of the epistles traditionally ascribed to Paul. Identify which of these issues prompted each epistle.

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

How well students demonstrate:

1. Engagement with the Scriptures.
2. An awareness of, and engagement with, scholarly viewpoints.
3. An understanding of 3 major issues which prompted the writing of the epistles traditionally ascribed to Paul (excluding the Pastoral Epistles).
4. The ability to identify which of these issues each of the Pauline epistles addresses with reference to the biblical text.
5. The ability to write concisely and clearly.
6. The ability to synthesise diverse ideas into a coherent argument.
7. Referencing, spelling and grammatical skills.

**Length: 1000 words**

**References: at least 2**

**Due: 30 September by no later than 11.55 on Moodle**

**Mark allocation: 25%**

**Learning Outcomes addressed: A.2, B.1, B.2, B.3.**

### Task 3

Discuss three (3) major issues which prompted the non-Pauline epistles in the NT. Identify which of these issues prompted each epistle.

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

How well students demonstrate:

1. Engagement with the Scriptures.
2. An awareness of and engagement with scholarly viewpoints.
3. A basic understanding of four issues which prompted the non-Pauline epistles in the NT
4. The ability to identify which of these issues each of the non-Pauline epistles addresses with reference to the biblical text.
5. The ability to write concisely and clearly.
6. The ability to synthesise diverse ideas into a coherent argument.
7. Referencing, spelling and grammatical skills.

**Length: 1000 words**

**References: at least 2**

**Due: 31 October by no later than 11.55 on Moodle**

**Mark allocation: 20%**

**Learning Outcomes addressed: A.2, B.1, B.2, B.3.**

### Task 4

With reference to Scripture, discuss how your learning in this unit will influence your life and ministry.

The **key assessment criteria** for this requirement are how well students demonstrate:

1. Engagement with the Scriptures and Learning Guides (30%).
2. The ability to use perspectives from 'Jesus and the Gospels' for personal understanding and in life and ministry contexts (30%).
3. The ability to synthesise diverse ideas into a coherent argument (20%).
4. The ability to express themselves concisely and clearly (10%).
5. Presentation: Spelling, grammar and referencing (10%).

**Length: 1000 words**

**References:** *No referencing required but students will be expected to demonstrate evidence of engagement with the Learning Guides.*

**Due: 8 November by no later than 11.55 on Moodle**

**Mark allocation: 20%**

**Learning Outcomes addressed: C.1.**

## Unit Contribution to Graduate Attributes

### ***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)

	1.	2.	3.	4.
<b>Graduate Attribute 1: Personal Maturity</b>				
<i>‘Shepherds with God’s heart’</i>				
a. grows a deepening relationship with Jesus			√	
b. is secure in God’s call with a desire and ability to learn and grow				√
c. is self-aware and maintains self-care				√
d. seeks and builds healthy relationships			√	
e. is committed to living with integrity and prayerful dependence on God			√	
<b>Graduate Attribute 2: Theological Maturity</b>				
<i>‘Knowledge and understanding of God’s heart’</i>				
a. knows and trusts the Bible	√			
b. understands the context of diverse theological ideas	√			
c. forms a personal theology which is both biblical and thoughtful	√			
d. reflects theologically and applies the Bible to real life	√			
e. is committed to helping others know God’s grace and truth and live God’s way			√	
<b>Graduate Attribute 3: Ministry Maturity</b>				
<i>‘Knowledgeable and wise shepherds’</i>				
a. is able to have a godly influence over others		√		
b. possesses skills needed for chosen ministry path		√		
c. understands cultures and contexts and is able to minister in a range of contexts			√	
d. is able to work with and lead a team				√
e. is committed to serving, evangelising and mentoring others			√	
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				

## Recommended Readings

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

### New Testament Background

- Barnett, P. 1999. *Jesus and the Rise of Early Christianity*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Evans, C. A. & Porter, S. E. (eds) 2000. *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Ferguson, E 2003. *Backgrounds of Early Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Jeffers, J. S. 1999. *The Greco-Roman World of the New Testament Era*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Keener, C. S. 1993. *The IVP Biblical Background Commentary: New Testament*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Skarsaune, O. 2002. *In the Shadow of the Temple: Jewish Influences on Early Christianity*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Witherington, B. 2001. *New Testament History: A Narrative Account*. Grand Rapids: Baker.
- Wright, N. T. 1992. *The New Testament and the People of God*. Minneapolis: Fortress.

### New Testament Introduction

- Achtemeier, P. J.; Green, J. B. & Thompson, M. M. 2001. *Introducing the New Testament: Its Literature and Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Brown, R. E. 1997. *An Introduction to the New Testament*. New York: Doubleday.
- Carson, D. A. & Moo, D. J. 2005, *An Introduction to the New Testament (2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)*, Zondervan, Grand Rapids.
- DeSilva, D. A. 2004. *An Introduction to the New Testament: Context, Methods and Ministry Formation*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Elwell, W. A. & Yarbrough, R. W. 2005. *Encountering the New Testament and Readings from the First-Century World*. Grand Rapids: Baker.
- Gundry, R. 2003. *A Survey of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.
- Guthrie, D. 1990. *New Testament Introduction (Revised)*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Marshall, I. H.; Travis, S. & Paul, I. 2002. *Exploring the New Testament, vol. 2: A Guide to the Epistles and Revelation*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Wenham, D. & Walton, S. 2001. *Exploring the New Testament, vol. 1: A Guide to the Gospels & Act*. Downers Grove: IVP.

### New Testament Theology

- Caird, G. B. (completed and edited by L. D. Hurst) 1994. *New Testament Theology*. Oxford: Clarendon.
- Goppelt, L. 1981-1982. *Theology of the New Testament*. 2 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Hurtado, L. 2003. *Lord Jesus Christ: Devotion to Jesus in Earliest Christianity*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Ladd, G. E. 1993. *A Theology of the New Testament*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.

- Marshall, I. H. 2004. *New Testament Theology*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Matera, F. J. 2007. *New Testament Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox.
- Thielman, F. 2005. *New Testament Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

#### Dictionaries and Encyclopaedias

- Bromiley, G. W. (ed) 1979-1986, *The International Standard Bible Encyclopedia*, revised, 4 vols. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Evans, C. A. & Porter, S. E. (eds) 2000, *Dictionary of New Testament Background*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Freedman, D. N. (ed) 1993. *The Anchor Bible Dictionary*, 6 vols. New York: Doubleday.
- Green, J. B.; McKnight, S. & Marshall, I. H. (eds) 1992. *Dictionary of Jesus and the Gospels*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Hawthorne, G. F.; Martin, R. P. & Reid, D. G. (eds) 1993. *Dictionary of Paul and His Letters*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Martin, R. P. & Davids, P. H. (eds) 1998. *Dictionary of the Later New Testament and Its Developments*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Ryken, L. et al (eds) 1998. *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Sakenfeld, K. D. (ed) 2006. *New Interpreter's Dictionary of the Bible*, 6 vols. Nashville: Abingdon.
- Vanhoozer, K. J. (ed) 2005. *Dictionary for Theological Interpretation of the Bible*. Grand Rapids: Baker

#### The Apostle Paul

- Bruce, F. F. 1977. *Paul: Apostle of the Heart Set Free*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Capes, D. B.; Reeves, R. & Richards, E. R. 2007. *Rediscovering Paul*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Dunn, J. D. G. 1998. *The Theology of Paul the Apostle*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Gorman, M. J. 2004. *Apostle of the Crucified Lord: A Theological Introduction to Paul and His Letters*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Horrell, D. 2000. *An Introduction to the Study of Paul*. New York: Continuum.
- Polhill, J. B. 1999. *Paul and His Letters*. Nashville: Broadman & Holman.
- Ridderbos, H. 1975. *Paul: An Outline of His Theology*. Grand Rapids: Eerdmans.
- Schreiner, T. E. 2001. *Paul: Apostle of God's Glory in Christ*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Witherington, B. 1998. *The Paul Quest*. Downers Grove: IVP.
- Wright, N. T. 2005. *Paul: In Fresh Perspective*. Minneapolis: Fortress.

#### Articles

- MacGregor, Kirk R. 2009. "Is 1 Corinthians 11:2-16 a prohibition of homosexuality?" *Bibliotheca Sacra*. 166, 201-216.
- Walton, Steve 2008a. "Primitive communism in Acts? Does Acts present the community of goods (2:44-45; 4:32-35) as mistaken?" *Evangelical Quarterly*, 80/2, 99-111.
- \_\_\_\_\_ 2008b, "The Acts – of God? What is the 'Acts of the Apostles' all about?". *Evangelical Quarterly*, 80/4, 291-306.

## ACT Policies and Procedures

### KEY POLICIES

Students should take note of the following ACT policies:

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

### ACCESSING DOCUMENTS

These and other policy documents are publically available in the following handbooks, through links on ACT's home page ([www.acttheology.edu.au](http://www.acttheology.edu.au)):

1. Undergraduate Handbook.
2. Postgraduate Handbook.
3. Student Policy Handbook.
4. International Student Handbook.
5. Distance Education Handbook.

*These should be read in conjunction with the 'Recent Updates' link found on the home page.*