

# ADVANCED CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## PROGRAMME HANDBOOK



**THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION BY EXTENSION COLLEGE NPC**

*Equipping anyone, anywhere for Christian ministry*

The pages of this booklet are A5 size

If you are printing to a printer with A4 paper then selecting the “Fit” sizing option will enlarge the printout to fill the A4 page

This programme handbook applies to the Advanced Certificate in Religious Education offered by the Theological Education by Extension College NPC

See the Annual Yearbook for fees and application information

This handbook is issued once to students upon registration  
Updated copies can be found on the College website

**teec.co.za**

## Advanced Certificate in Religious Education

The TEEC Advanced Certificate in Religious Education serves those who teach -- whether formally in a school or tertiary context, or in the pastoral contexts of confirmation and baptism preparation.

This qualification is intended to equip the student with the necessary knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary for teaching religious education in school or faith community contexts.

As such it serves a variety of purposes:

- It provides a general introduction to and understanding of religious themes and basic theological disciplines for those involved in teaching, religious institutions or the catechumenate;
- It is a smaller, focused qualification that usually complements primary qualifications already held;
- It helps those involved in various educational fields expand their expertise through integrating study with work.

CREDITS	EXIT LEVEL	SAQA ID	FTE
120	NQF 6	111898	1-year

The TEEC Advanced Certificate in Religious Education is registered on the National Qualifications Framework through the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA), and is accredited by the South African Council on Higher Education (CHE).

This qualification does not automatically lead to a formal recognition of teaching or ministry. Ask your relevant authorities for advice about the requirements for your teaching role.

Read this handbook together with the College Annual Yearbook as well as the College Rules & Regulations. Academic work on this programme is guided by the Advanced Certificate Study Aid.

## TEE College

The College is registered by the South African Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) as a private higher education institution (PHEI) to offer programmes accredited by the South African Council on Higher Education (CHE) which lead to qualifications registered through the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA) on the South African National Qualifications Framework (NQF).

This qualification is part of the *Christian ministry* stream of programmes offered by TEE College. Programmes in this stream provide a practical ministerial or missional focus grounded on a basic introduction to theological studies

## Outcomes

This programme is designed to:

- develop an understanding of the nature and origin of inspired sacred writings, in particular, the Hebrew and Christian scriptures
- provide a critical knowledge of the Bible as God's word in human language, and an awareness of different methods of interpretation
- develop the ability to describe and engage with the central teachings of Christianity from a historical perspective across a selected range of theological and moral issues
- develop the ability to interpret these teachings in the light of their personal faith and religious experience, and an ability to translate them into their learners' life contexts and experience
- develop a broad but clear historical sense of God's unfolding plan for humankind from the perspective of Christian faith in dialogue with other world religions
- communicate a basic knowledge and appreciation of the beliefs and practices of the major religions in South African society
- promote an understanding of the place of religion in personal, social, cultural and political life
- provide a critical knowledge of the nature of Religious Education and the role of the religious educator

- develop the ability to manage the Religious Education curriculum in a chosen grade in a way that is sensitive to both systemic requirements, current issues and student interests
- develop the ability to conduct a well-informed and well-resourced practice of Religious Education according to sound educational and religious principles, in a personal way that relates well to their teaching context.

## **Who may register**

The Advanced Certificate in Religious Education is open to anyone who meets the requirements for admission to an Advanced Certificate at NQF Level 6, though teachers of religious education in schools or other institutional contexts, such as parishes and faith communities, would find it especially beneficial.

To register, the student must:

- have successfully completed a qualification at NQF Level 5 or higher.
- Alternatively, have successfully completed the TEEC Access Assessment with an appropriate outcome.

The TEEC Access Assessment eliminates complexities over entrance requirements, and also sets students on an academically realistic path. More information about the TEEC Access Assessment is available from the College or the website.

The programme, or any selection of its courses, is also available for non-qualification purposes (NDP)

Please speak to College staff if you need clarity as to how this Advanced Certificate relates to other programmes.

If your studies are part of preparation for formal recognition of ministry in school or faith community, then do check with your relevant authorities whether this is an appropriate study path for you.

See the programme page on the College website -

<https://teec.co.za/advanced-certificate-in-religious-education/>

## **Programme delivery**

The study materials for this programme are delivered through an online learning platform.

You will be able to download unit texts and work offline, but will need online access (via a web browser and internet connection) to complete any online formative assessments.

Assignments are prepared offline in an electronic document and are submitted to the College for assessment.

## **Study path**

The order in which courses are registered is as follows:

- You must start with the first core course 5RE01;
- The remaining Core courses can be completed in any sequence, registering for one or two Full (or Repeat) courses in a semester;
- You may register for Elective courses (alongside Core courses) after completing course 5RE01, registering for one or two Full (or Repeat) courses in a semester;
- You must complete four elective courses, at least one from each stream and the fourth from any stream.

## **Articulation & Progression**

A completed Advanced Certificate will give entrance to an Advanced Diploma programme.

## **Graduation requirements:**

To complete the 120-credit Advanced Certificate in Religious Education and graduate, you must:

- complete the four compulsory core courses (60 credits);
- complete another four out of eight elective courses, choosing at least one course from each of the three streams (60 credits).

## **We recommend that:**

- you balance your course load over the year between the first and second semesters;
- you register for no more than 30 credits in a semester (equal to 2 courses) if you study part-time;
- you set aside at approximately seven to eight hours of study time per week for each course;
- you give yourself more study time in the weeks leading up to due dates for assignments, as you may need to carry out practical work done away from your desk;
- you attend a tutorial group, if any are available to you.

Each course credit represents 10 notional hours of work: a 15 credit course requires approximately 150 hours of work – including reading, study, practical work, preparing for and writing assignments.

The language of instruction is English and course work loads are calculated for English second-language students.

## **Semesterisation**

The courses on this programme are semesterised and need to be registered in either the First semester or Second semester registration period. Do spread your workload over the First and Second semesters. Please submit applications in the appropriate semester registration period.

For current fees and registration information see the current annual Yearbook – also available from the College website

## Courses on the programme

### Compulsory Courses

Core	Credits	NQF
5RE01 Revelation, Scripture and Tradition	15	6
5RE02 Human Existence, God and Human Destiny	15	6
5RE03 World Religions and Interreligious Dialogue	15	6
5RE04 Religious Education in Theory and Practice	15	6

### Elective Courses

Religion & Society (stream 1)	Credits	NQF
5RE15 The Search for Meaning and Values: Human Culture, Religion and Faith	15	6
5RE16 Religion, Morality and Society	15	6
5RE17 Science and Religion	15	6

Religion in practice (stream 2)	Credits	NQF
5RE25 Spirituality and Life	15	6
5RE26 Principles of Social Justice	15	6
5RE27 The Worshipping Community	15	6

Historical perspectives (stream 3)	Credits	NQF
5RE35 The Jesus of History and the Christ of Faith	15	6
5RE36 The History of Christianity	15	6



## Course descriptions

### Revelation, Scripture & Tradition

<b>5RE01</b>	Compulsory	NQF	Credits
	Core	6	15

In this course students gain a knowledge and understanding of the nature, structure and formation of the texts and canons of the Christian Scriptures, while recognising a range of literary genres found therein, and developing basic skills of interpretation. They develop a deeper understanding of issues related to Scripture such as inspiration, truth and inerrancy, and the relationship to tradition, reason and human experience. They also become aware of how different Christian communities understand these sacred texts and their use in personal and communal contexts.

This course is required in the first year of study on this programme – it will be included in your registration application if you do not include it.

People who are credited with this course are able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of key concepts in relation to revelation and scripture in the Christian tradition.
- Describe and analyse the composition of the canons of the Hebrew Bible and Christian New Testament.
- Apply a range of methods used to interpret biblical passages.
- Analyse the role of scripture in Christian tradition.

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### Introduction to the Old Testament

<b>5RE02</b>	Compulsory	NQF	Credits
	Core	6	15

This course introduces students to the discipline of Christian theology through a reflection on its nature, its sources and its methods. It provides a brief overview of its history through the past two millennia and creates opportunities for critical reflection on some key

theological themes, such as creation, the human person, sexuality and gender, suffering and human destiny in order to develop a heightened appreciation and sense of awe and wonder before the mystery of God, creation and humanity. Students will thereby develop greater confidence in dealing with theological questions, and an ability to correlate these and other themes with the experience of those they teach.

People who are credited with this course are able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the nature of Christian theology, and give a general overview of its sub-disciplines and areas of concern.
- Demonstrate a working knowledge of Christian theology's sources and methods.
- Develop and use foundational theological knowledge in a responsible manner to address a range of relevant issues, taking into consideration a range of Christian perspectives, including ecological, feminist and liberation theologies.
- Develop the ability to deal with theological questions in a teaching situation with a sensitive and sound educational approach.

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## World Religions & Interreligious Dialogue

<b>5RE03</b>	Compulsory	NQF	Credits
	Core	6	15

In this course, students will be challenged to develop an appreciation of diversity, given the multicultural and multi-religious context of Religious Education in South Africa. In their practice, they will develop a dialogical approach to teaching and learning so that their learners are individually affirmed in their cultural and religious identity, while, in turn, coming to appreciate the identities of others in their midst. Students will be equipped with a basic knowledge of the major religions found in South Africa and will be introduced to various forms of interreligious dialogue. Religions included in this module are African Tradition, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

People who are credited with this course are able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of and appreciation for religious diversity
- Describe and evaluate the historical background, origin and subsequent development of the major religions in South Africa
- Explain and evaluate the main features of the texts, the belief systems and the personal and communal practices of a range of major religions in South Africa
- Show an understanding and appreciation of the engagement of various communities in interreligious dialogue, both locally and globally
- Describe methods of interreligious teaching and learning, and apply them in a teaching context.

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## Religious Education in Theory & Practice

<b>5RE04</b>	Compulsory	NQF	Credits
	Core	6	15

This course introduces the student to the basic questions concerning the practice of Religious Education as a dimension of the school curriculum, while the relationship of Religious Education in the school to other formal contexts, such as the school or faith community, is understood and appreciated. Students will explore policy and framework documents relevant to their context and, where appropriate, understand the rights and responsibilities of schools, both public and independent, with regard to religion.

Through this course, the student gains a clear understanding of the teaching and learning process in Religious Education and how to manage it in the learning environment, treating various aspects, such as language used in religion, the correlation of faith with life, appropriate methodologies, and suitable resources. This will be done with a knowledge of and sensitivity to the learners' different contexts, ages and stages of spiritual, moral and religious development.

People who are credited with this course are able to:

- Describe and evaluate different religious and legal factors that shape the teaching and learning context.
- Demonstrate awareness and practical knowledge of, and a sensitivity to, the differences found among learners, and take these into account in shaping pedagogical choices
- Demonstrate competence and confidence to lead the teaching and learning process in a formal Religious Education context
- Demonstrate an understanding of the aims, objectives and scope of Religious Education as defined for a particular teaching and learning context.

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## **The Search for Meaning and Values: Human Culture, Religion & Faith**

<b>5RE15</b>	Elective	NQF	Credits
	Religion & Society	6	15

This course focuses on human culture(s) and worldviews as the context within which the communal and personal search for meaning and values takes place. It explores different responses that have been made through human history to the great questions of life. In particular it studies the role that religion has played in this human quest as ally, critic and transformer of human culture. Finally it proposes the trans-cultural worldview offered by the reign (*basileia*) of God embodied in Jesus as a definitive expression of meaning and value for human history.

People who are credited with this course are able to:

- Describe and analyse a range of traditional and contemporary expressions of the search for meaning.
- Compare the various kinds of responses that have been made by human societies and cultures in the search for meaning
- Describe and evaluate the role that religion plays in the human search for meaning

- Demonstrate an understanding of religion as the ally, critic and transformer of human culture in the quest for meaning.

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## Religion, Morality & Society

<b>5RE16</b>	Elective	NQF	Credits
	Religion & Society	6	15

This course addresses questions of ethics and morality from a theoretical and a practical perspective. Students will engage with different understandings of ethics and morality and undertake a deeper analysis of the complex questions that arise. They will come to an understanding of religious motivations for ethics and morality and the interplay of personal and social ethical or behavioural norms.

People who are credited with this course are able to:

- Describe and evaluate the concepts of ethics and morality.
- Identify and analyse Judaeo-Christian and other religious motivations for sound ethical and moral behaviour.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the process of moral development as becoming fully human.
- Describe and analyse a range of current ethical and moral issues.

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## Science & Religion

<b>5RE17</b>	Elective	NQF	Credits
	Religion & Society	6	15

Participants in this course will develop an awareness of the changing nature and methods of the scientific and theological enterprises. They will trace key moments in the history of the relationship between religion and science, and engage with some contemporary issues and debates such as those concerning creation, human origins, genetic engineering and the termination of life. In general, they will explore the ethical and theological implications of scientific progress.

People who are credited with this course are able to:

- Describe and analyse, from a historical perspective, the rise of religion and science as two modes of the human search for meaning.
  - Describe, from a historical perspective, the different relationships between science and religion.
  - Demonstrate an understanding of the different ways of knowing through science, on the one hand, and through religion on the other.
  - Identify and analyse a range of contemporary issues that call for a dialogue between science and religion.
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## Spirituality & Life

<b>5RE25</b>	Elective	NQF	Credits
	Religion in practice	6	15

This course will develop an understanding of the nature of spirituality and its various expressions. A range of Christian spiritual traditions will be dealt with from historical and practical perspectives, and participants will become familiar with key practices in other religious traditions of the world.

People who are credited with this course are able to:

- Describe the nature of spirituality as a field of study and as a common human concern.
  - Describe and analyse traditions in Christian spirituality.
  - Describe and analyse a range of spiritual practices and disciplines in Christianity and other world religions.
  - Describe connections that different areas of human activity have with the spiritual dimension of life.
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## Principles of Social Justice

<b>5RE26</b>	Elective	NQF	Credits
	Religion in practice	6	15

In this course students are required to develop their knowledge and understanding of the principles of social analysis and to learn how to apply those principles to actual situations at the local, national and international levels. The module will be informed by a selection of secular and religious perspectives on social justice.

People who are credited with this course are able to:

- Demonstrate an understanding of the concept of social justice and its relationship to human rights.
  - Describe and evaluate religious perspectives on social justice issues.
  - Describe and analyse major social justice issues.
  - Critically analyse social justice issues.
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## The Worshipping Community

<b>5RE27</b>	Elective	NQF	Credits
	Religion in practice	6	15

This course will give participants an understanding of the nature of liturgy or communal worship, its purpose, how it is celebrated, and what it can mean to the community who celebrates. The relevance and use of symbols, words and actions in liturgy will be explored particularly in relation to the Christian sacraments as celebrated in different communities.

- People who are credited with this course are able to:
- Describe and analyse the concepts of rites, rituals, signs and symbols in religious and secular contexts.
- Describe the value of rituals in religious systems.

- Outline the origin, meaning and practice of the Christian sacraments in different communities.

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## The Jesus of History and the Christ of Faith

<b>5RE35</b>	Elective	NQF	Credits
	Historical perspectives	6	15

In this course students gain knowledge of the social, political and religious world of first century Palestine in order to better appreciate the various dimensions of Jesus' historical life and ministry. They learn to appreciate the Gospels as documents which witness both to the early Christian communities' faith in Jesus the Christ, the revelation of God, and to their memories of the historical Jesus of Nazareth. They come to understand the different portraits of Jesus contained in the Gospels and develop their own understanding of the person and history of Jesus.

The module also introduces students to the ways in which biblical scholars and contemporary theologians interpret for our time and culture the experience and understanding of the Christ mystery found within the New Testament and the early centuries of the Church.

People who are credited with this course are able to:

- Demonstrate understanding of the gospels as documents which witness to the person of Jesus.
  - Demonstrate a basic knowledge of the world of Jesus, his life and ministry.
  - Describe and evaluate the diversity of approaches to the experience and understanding of the Christ mystery.
  - Articulate the meaning of Christ for today through a correlation of Christian faith with contemporary science and culture.
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## The History of Christianity

<b>5RE36</b>	Elective	NQF	Credits
	Historical perspectives	6	15

The primary focus in this course is an exploration of the historical nature of Christianity and the role of social, cultural and political contexts in the shaping of belief and practice from the time of Jesus to the present day. The dynamics of continuity and discontinuity as well as diversity and adaptability within the Christian tradition will be identified.

People who are credited with this course are able to:

- Gather, evaluate, and present information on the historical background and origin of Christianity.
- Trace the development of Christianity from earliest times to the present.
- Critically survey the history of Christianity in Africa, and in South Africa in particular.
- Demonstrate an awareness of possible futures for Christianity as a world religion.

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