

PROGRAMME OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES

Length of Programme

The curriculum shall extend over a minimum of three years of part-time study by distance learning mode.

Application

A person who wishes to be admitted to the Programme of Orthodox Christian Studies shall submit:

- The completed application form.
- Copies of necessary documents: Certified copy of Identity Document or Passport, matriculation/ high-school certificate, other qualifications.
- A once-off, non-refundable application fee.

Eligibility for admission

Before a person can be registered as a student, he or she must comply with one of the following minimum requirements for admission:

He or she must have a recognised Matriculation Certificate or a matriculation endorsement, or have satisfied any other requirement that entitles a person to be admitted as a student of a university in the Republic of South Africa, provided that no person shall be admitted unless he or she has obtained a standard of education acceptable; or,

He or she must have provided evidence that he or she has other qualifications or prior experience that satisfies the Academy that he or she would be able to undertake the work and complete the requirements of the Programme; or,

He or she must have qualified for admission in terms of the Academy's recognition of prior learning or recognition of mature age (25 and over).

The language of communication and of instruction is English. It is thus imperative that students should be proficient in English.

Curriculum

A student must complete all of the following modules, as outlined below:

YEAR ONE

FIRST SEMESTER

- SCR01: The Hebrew Scriptures

- CHS01: The Early Church
- DCT01: God and Revelation
- SPRT01: Prayer and Spiritual Life

SECOND SEMESTER

- SCR02: The Good News
- CHS02: The Medieval Church
- DCT02: Creation and Incarnation
- LIT01: Baptism and Eucharist

YEAR TWO

FIRST SEMESTER

- SCR03: Scriptural Themes
- CHS03: Beyond Byzantium
- DCT03: Salvation and Eternal Life
- LIT02: Reconciliation and Healing

SECOND SEMESTER

- ETH01 Living the Faith
- ECUM01: The Church and the churches
- PAST01: Caring for the Faithful
- LIT03: Consecrating and Blessing

YEAR THREE

FIRST SEMESTER

- ETH02: The Church in the World
- ECUM02: Encountering other Faiths
- ECUM03: Contemporary Theologies
- MISS01: Church and Mission

SECOND SEMESTER

- Dissertation/Project term

Method of Study

Each module includes an intensive reading programme. Students receive the syllabus, bibliography and course objectives. They are guided in their reading and notetaking and then given essay topics or a series of questions to answer. These are time intensive and demanding as they demonstrate the student's engagement with the course material and ability to synthesize this knowledge in his or her own words. A student for the Programme shall perform the work as set out in the study guides and submit the required assessments for each module on or before the due date.

Students following this non-accredited option will not be 'sitting' for formal written, invigilated examinations. They will be required instead, to submit written assignments in lieu thereof.

The final semester requires a longer assignment or research project on a topic of the student's choice. After a successful three years, the student receives a St Mark's certificate in Orthodox Christian Theology from the Academy.

Extensions

Extensions on assignments or examinations may be requested if necessary. The appropriate mentor or lecturer must be notified. A penalty of up to 10 % per week will be deducted from the mark achieved in the assignment or examination.

The Pass Mark for each module

The pass mark in any module is 50%. The mark for each module derives from formative and summative assessments, each carrying their own weight and contributing towards the final mark.

Submission Dates

All assignments must be completed and emailed by the due dates set by the Coordinator of the Programme.

Credit

A student shall obtain credit for a module if he or she has obtained a mark of 50% or more.

The final mark obtained by a student in a qualifying module shall be published as a percentage. All modules are compulsory and should be taken in succession and must all be passed.

Completion of requirements for the Programme

In order to qualify for the certification, a student must obtain credit for each and all of the modules.

Credit for previous studies

Students that registered at another institution and have been following a similar course of studies and who think they may be entitled to credit for some of the modules, are requested to provide an official transcript from that institution as well as the content of the modules in question. It is possible in some cases that students will receive credit for specific modules, but not for whole semesters. They will have to, in such instances, complete the outstanding modules before moving to the next semester. Where only one module of the semester is required, it will be possible to include it in the following semester's courses. This is, however, with the understanding that the student realises the added workload and consciously undertakes to fulfil all work requirements.

Failing modules and cancellation of registration

A student who fails to obtain credit in a module may be permitted by the Academy to repeat the module. Repeating a module means re-registering for the module, repeating all the work for the module, undergoing all the assessments again and paying the required tuition fee. If a student fails to complete the requirements, the Academy may refuse to renew his or her registration if he or she has not completed the requirements for the Programme within 42 months of the date of first registration. It is possible to obtain written permission from the Academy and put the registration into abeyance for a specified period, which will not then count as part of the registration period.

Withdrawal of credit after lapse in registration

The Academy may withdraw credits obtained by examination or exemption in a qualifying module if a student allows his or her registration to lapse for a period of four years or longer.

Award of Certificate with distinction

The Certificate will be awarded with distinction to a student who has obtained an average of 75% or more as a final and total mark.

Last day for registration, re-registration and entry to classes

Registration must preferably be completed a month prior to the start of the Programme. The last date for admission is the day of before the start of each academic semester. Should this be the case, responsibility rests with the student to ensure he or she will obtain the required bibliography timeously and be able to maintain the necessary momentum in the studies.

Semesters run from January 1 to June 30 and from July 1 to December 31

St Mark's Academy reserves the right to amend or change these rules and regulations as required.