



Bachelor of Theology Honours

Admission criteria

To qualify for admission to the BTh Honours, a candidate must have maintained an average of at least 60 percent in their undergraduate degree. Additionally, a candidate must meet one of these admission requirements.

1. An accredited Bachelor of Theology or cognate qualification (for example, a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Biblical Studies would be deemed cognate).
2. An accredited Bachelor's degree in another field accompanied by an accredited Certificate or Diploma in Theology and/or by *extensive* ministry experience.

Applicants in category 2 are required to draw up a portfolio of evidence that contains a detailed presentation of their prior qualifications and ministry experience. The Admission's Committee will assess the candidate's portfolio and, if deemed necessary, either set an admission test or prescribe bridging coursework (typically in the form of undergraduate modules).

Graduate profile

According to the SAQA registered BTh Honours (ID: 49133), students who graduate from a BTh should be able to do the following with an advanced measure of independence:

- Analyse and interpret primary Christian sources exegetically and theologically.
- Integrate and appropriate such sources in context.
- Analyse, understand and position oneself and one's community within the scope of the history of Christianity.
- Critically evaluate and apply Christian theology and ethics personally and in community.
- Design, practise and monitor ministries in the church.

- Initiate and develop Christian ministry in the wider community.

These descriptors fit well with the objectives of the South African Theological Seminary and the skills we would like to see developed in graduates from this programme.

Programme Design

The Honours curriculum consists of a combination of 12 credit courses and 24 Credit courses, that must total at least 120 Credits:

Compulsory:

- GEN4121 Theological Orientation (12 credits)

24 Credit Electives

- NTS4241 New Testament
- OTS4241 Old Testament
- RES4241 Honours Research Project (prerequisite RES4122)
- THE4241 Systematic Theology
- THE4242 Science and Theology

12 Credit Electives:

- BIB4123 Ephesians
- GEN4122 Directed Theological Reading
- MIS4121 Missiology
- MIS4122 Understanding Islam
- MIS4123 Critiquing Islam (prerequisite MIS4122 or MIS3125 or equivalent)
- PRA4121 Practical Theology
- PRA4122 Narrative Preaching
- RES4122 Research Methodology (must be taken if taking RES4241)
- THE4123 Child Theology

Pricing structure 2018

Course	South Africa	Majority World	Elsewhere
12 credit course (each)	R2387	\$210	\$381
24 credit course (each)	R4774	\$420	\$762
Total	R22870	\$2100	\$3810

Kindly note all course fees paid to SATS are non-refundable.

Prices are increased annually in January

Exit level outcomes

The outcomes below are the exit-level outcomes suggested in the SGB-generated, SAQA-registered BTh Honours (ID 49133). In designing the curriculum, the seminary has taken cognisance of these outcomes and purposely adapted them to fit the institutions objectives as embodied in the course-level outcomes.

- Identify, distinguish and evaluate more advanced concepts and theories with regard to theology as a human and social science.
- Integrate and apply the range of theological concepts and disciplines.
- Critically compare and use theological and other sources at a more advanced level to explore faith questions and proclaim Christian faith in context.
- Identify and develop their personal faith in critical interaction with their context and people with differing views, and exhibit a more advanced degree of critical self-awareness.
- Engage in and articulate critical and creative theological thinking at a more advanced level.
- Play a moral and constructive role by developing and applying core human and Christian values to contexts, and being critical of all value systems.
- Develop and evaluate insights arising from the various theological disciplines that may contribute to development of Christian ministry and life.
- Use varying theological disciplines to develop critical thinking concerning issues of power and leadership in church and society.
- Be aware of, and be able to interact constructively with, multicultural and multi-faith communities, from a theological perspective.
- Apply the insights of one or more disciplines to identify and critique issues of church and society.

Course Descriptions

General

1. GEN4121 Theological Orientation

This is the first, compulsory course in the B.Th. Honours programme. It provides you with an introduction to SATS, its services and support systems, as well as to theological research and academic writing. This course will help you derive maximum benefit from your studies at SATS.

2. GEN4122 Directed Theological Reading

This elective course exposes you to current scholarship in a specific field of theological studies or a combination of theological fields. You will be given a list of resources to read, analyse, interpret, compare and apply. Assessment is done through an online oral examination where you will demonstrate your knowledge of the prescribed reading material.

Biblical Studies

3. NTS4241 New Testament

This course introduces you to the environment of early Christianity, the cultural and social world of the early church, the literature of the New Testament, critical issues of New Testament formation, and the theological message of the New Testament. You will gain a framework for further study of individual New Testament books and for appreciating the significance of these ancient, inspired writings for the life of the church.

4. OTS4241 Old Testament

This course will help deepen your understanding of the Old Testament. It deals with the content, canon, history, geography, culture, hermeneutics, literature, and theology of the Old Testament (Units 1 to 7) and concludes with a research paper (Units 8-9).

5. BIB4123 Ephesians

This course will equip you to critically evaluate debates concerning the background issues of Ephesians, explain its structure and argument, interpret and apply selected passages and communicate its central message.

Missiology

6. MIS4121 Missiology

This course will give you an introduction to missiology that is not limited to the “biblical foundation of mission” or to a pragmatic “how to” approach of “doing mission”, but which combines these (and other) key dimensions of missiology in an integrated perspective. It also combines the dimensions of spirituality and practical planning. Upon completion of this course you will be able to:

- Explain the understanding of Christian mission as God’s mission
- Explain the “praxis matrix” approach to missiology
- Analyse the mission practices of a Christian movement
- Demonstrate the impact of the praxis matrix on your own missiological approach and mission experiences.

7. MIS4122 Understanding Islam

This course provides a comprehensive introduction to Islam. The opening unit provides a general overview of Islam’s origins, beliefs and practices. The second unit examines the life of Muhammad in considerable detail, while the third compares the God revealed in the Qur’an (Allah) with the God of the Bible. Unit 4 examines the mission of Islam (Islamisation), noting the objectives and strategies involved. The final unit presents some current approaches Christians use to present the gospel to Muslims.

8. MIS4123 Critiquing Islam (prerequisite: MIS3125 or MIS4122 or equivalent)

This course affords students who have a solid understanding of Islam to deepen their understanding through and in-depth exploration of contemporary and controversial themes. You will be provided with a selection of themes, being required to select two and frame a research paper (argumentative essay) addressing each. Themes might include topics like the origins of Islam, the status of women in Islam, the legitimacy of insider movements as a mission strategy amongst Muslims, the Islamic Reformation, or the inspiration, transmission and organisation of the Qur’an.

Practical Theology

9. PRA4121 Practical Theology

This course provides an advanced introduction to Practical Theology as a theological discipline. It includes an overview of the discipline (Unit 1), a study of research models (Unit 2) and a research paper (Unit 3).

10. PRA4122 Narrative Preaching

This course explores the history, theoretical underpinning and primary models of narrative preaching as a foundation for equipping you to learn some narrative methods of preaching. The heart of the course requires you to prepare and deliver sermons using both first-person and third-person narrative models. The course ends with you undertaking an evaluation of your narrative sermons, both a self-assessment and a congregational assessment.

Systematic Theology

11. THE4241 Systematic theology

This course provides an orientation to the field of Systematic Theology. It includes an overview of major doctrines of the Christian faith (Unit 1), research methods (Unit 2) and a research paper (Unit 3).

12. THE4242 Science and Theology

The purpose of this course is to show the importance of dialogue between theology and the natural sciences if we are to understand God's Word and his world correctly. The first objective of the course is for those interested in the relationships between science and theology to gain a clear picture of the complexities of the debate. The second objective is to affirm the validity and rationality of believing in God and the Bible in spite of the hostile voices claiming the converse.

13. THE4123 Child Theology

This course explores the concept of doing theology with "the child in the midst". This is a relatively new discipline, which desperately demands the church's attention.

Research

14. RES4122 Research Methodology

This is an elective course is designed to sharpen your understanding of theological research methodology. It is a prerequisite for the following course.

15. RES4241 Research Project

In this is an elective course in which you apply a specific research method in your research on one of the prescribed research topics. The course culminates in a research report of around 7 000 words that includes references to at least 15 scholarly works.

Required Textbooks

NTS4241 New Testament

DeSilva DA 2004. *An introduction to the New Testament: contexts, methods, and ministry formation*. Downers Grove: InterVarsity (ISBN-13: 9780830827466).

THE4241 Systematic theology

Grudem W 1994. *Systematic Theology*. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

PRA4121 Practical Theology

Denscombe M 2010. *The good guide for small scale social research projects* (4th ed.). Buckingham: Open University Press. (available through EBSCOhost)

Osmer RR 2008. *Practical Theology: an introduction*. Eerdmans: Grand Rapids, USA

PRA4122 Narrative Preaching

Edwards, J. Kent. 2009. *Effective First-Person Biblical Preaching: The Steps from Text to Narrative Sermon*. Kindle edition. Grand Rapids, Michigan: Zondervan

THE4242 Science and Theology

Moreland, James P., ed. 1999. *Three Views on Creation and Evolution*. Kindle Edition. Grand Rapids: Zondervan.

Alexander, D. 2014. *Creation or Evolution: Do We Have to Choose? Second Edition, Revised and Expanded*. Monarch Books: Oxford England. (available through EBSCOhost)

In all other courses, a reader will be provided with extracts from relevant textbooks.

Timetable (valid for 2018 only)

Term 1 (starting 1st February) and **Term 3** (starting 1st August)

12 Credit Courses (3 months)

GEN4121 Theological Orientation

MIS4122 Understanding Islam

PRA4121 Practical Theology

PRA4122 Narrative Preaching

RES4122 Research Methodology

24 Credit Courses (6 months)

NTS4241 New Testament

OTS4241 Old Testament

RES4241 Research Project (prerequisite RES4122)

THE4241 Systematic Theology

THE4242 Science and Theology

Term 2 (starting 1st May) and **Term 4** (starting 1st November)

12 Credit Courses (3 months)

GEN4121 Theological Orientation

BIB4123 Ephesians

GEN4122 Directed Theological Reading

MIS4121 Missiology

MIS4123 Critiquing Islam (prerequisite MIS4122)

THE4123 Child Theology