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**Helderberg College**

**BA (Theology) Deferral for HEQSF Re-alignment**

**24 April 2015**

**Recommended Evaluation Outcome Comment**:

“*Clarity needs to be sought in the following areas:*

1. *Why this four-year degree has been designated a BA (Theology) when it is a BDiv in public universities.*
2. *Why the 524 credits is somewhat more than the required 480 credits, representing one third of a year's work*.”
3. **Response:** *Why is the degree designated as a BA (Theology) and not a BDiv?*

Historically the degree was designated as a Bachelor of Arts in Theology, when in previous years, up to May, 2001 Helderberg College was affiliated with Andrews University in Berrien Springs, Michigan, United States of America. The degree programme and title hence followed the Andrews University nomenclature.

In the current South African context, a Bachelor of Theology (BTh) is generally a three-year degree and a Bachelor of Divinity (BDiv) is a four-year degree. Stellenbosch University, for example, uses these designations to differentiate between their three- and four-year Theology degree programmes. Furthermore, the description of the Stellenbosch University BDiv indicates parallel content with that of the BA (Theology) offered by Helderberg College.

For this reason, we acknowledge that in terms of consistency, the four year BA (Theology) programme, in the current South African context, may be better designated as a Bachelor of Divinity and the institution has no objection to this name change.

If this is in order, we would like to change the name of the four-year Theology degree from that of a Bachelor of Arts (Theology) to that of a Bachelor of Divinity.

1. ***Response:*** *The 524 credits is somewhat more than the required 480 credits, representing one third of a year's work. In addition there are 7 credit bearing elective modules.*

The Faculty of Theology duly notes the comment regarding the excess 44 credits in terms of the minimum requirement of 480 credits. Significant effort has been taken to reduce the credits of the programme to be in line with the required 480 credits.

It was decided that the best way in which to address the excess credits in the programme was to remove the electives and have a structured programme with no streams. Currently the electives are:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Biblical Greek III **(BIB366)** | Level 7 | 16 | 3 | No | Yes | Unchanged |
| Developmental Psychology I **(PSY351)** | Level 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | Added |
| Biblical Exegesis II **(BIB330)** | Level 6 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | Added |
| Developmental Psychology II **(PSY352)** | Level 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | Added |
| Marriage & Family **(PSY307)** | Level 7 | 12 | 3 | No | Yes | Added |
| Biblical Hebrew III **(BIB386)** | Level 7 | 16 | 3 | No | Yes | Modified |
| Pastoral Counselling III **(REP312** | Level 7 | 8 | 3 | No | Yes | Added |

As indicated above, most of these modules were added to the programme since its accreditation. The reason for the additions was to allow students an opportunity to build a foundation within the programme to prepare them for an area of specialization in post-graduate studies, these areas being Biblical Languages and Pastoral Counselling. The institution may make these modules optional for students who wish to add them to their programme of study.

It should also be noted that the Theology Faculty chose to remove the electives rather than to reduce the credits assigned to Research (28 credits in the final year). It was felt that the Research component of the programme would be offered across the academic year, allowing for students to select their area of research, whether it be Biblical Languages (Hebrew and Greek), Systematic Theology, New or Old Testament, or Missiology etc. This would provide undergraduate students the opportunity to research an area of specialisation that may direct and assist them in post-graduate studies (which essentially was the point of the electives).

To restate: In order to graduate students must complete the designated compulsory 480 credits. The 44 credits assigned to the electives are therefore no longer compulsory but optional.

A table of the revised programme can be found on the pages which follow.

**PROPOSED BDiv PROGRAMME**

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module** | **NQF level** | **Credits** | **Year level** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Academic Writing **(ENG142)** | Level 6 | 16 | 1 |
| End User Computing II **(CPT125)** | Level 5 | 12 | 1 |
| Conversational Language **(LAN101)** | Level 5 | 8 | 1 |
| Studies in Health General **(HLD122)** | Level 5 | 8 | 1 |
| End User Computing I **(CPT118)** | Level 5 | 8 | 1 |
| OT Studies I: Law & Writings **(REB110)** | Level 5 | 12 | 1 |
| Biblical Greek I **(BIB165)** | Level 5 | 12 | 1 |
| Fundamentals of Psychology **(PSY101)** | Level 5 | 12 | 1 |
| Philosophy of Education & Service **(BHS151)** | Level 5 | 8 | 1 |
| Systematic Theology I **(RET103)** | Level 5 | 12 | 1 |
| Pastoral Practicum I **(REP103)** | Level 5 | 8 | 1 |
| Research Methods & Design **(BHS145)** | Level 5 | 8 | 1 |
| Principles of Evangelism **(REP135)** | Level 5 | 12 | 1 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module** | **NQF level** | **Credits** | **Year level** |
|  |  |  |  |
| Studies in Health - HIV/Aids **(HLD123)** | Level 5 | 4 | 2 |
| Biblical Hebrew l **(BIB185)** | Level 5 | 12 | 2 |
| OT Studies II (Early Prophets) **(REB216)** | Level 6 | 8 | 2 |
| Pastoral Counselling I **(REP210)** | Level 5 | 12 | 2 |
| NT Studies I Gospels **(REB237)** | Level 5 | 8 | 2 |
| Pastoral Practicum II **(REP203)** | Level 5 | 8 | 2 |
| Systematic Theology II **(RET251)** | Level 6 | 12 | 2 |
| Homiletics & Liturgy II **(REP232)** | Level 6 | 12 | 2 |
| Homiletics & Liturgy I **(REP231)** | Level 6 | 12 | 2 |
| Biblical Exegesis I **(BIB230)** | Level 5 | 8 | 2 |
| History of Earth & Life **(REB230)** | Level 6 | 12 | 2 |
| Evangelism Field School **(REP289)** | Level 6 | 12 | 2 |
| Missiology I Afr Studies & **(REM281)** | Level 5 | 12 | 2 |

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| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Module** | | **NQF level** | | **Credits** | | **Year level** | |
| Apocalyptic  Studies I (Daniel) **(REB420)** | Level7 | | 8 | | 3 | |
| Biblical Greek II **(BIB265)** | | Level 6 | | 12 | | 3 | |
| Pastoral Counselling II **(REP211)** | | Level 6 | | 12 | | 3 | |
| Biblical Hebrew II **(BIB286)** | | Level 6 | | 12 | | 3 | |
| Biblical Greek III **(BIB366)** | | Level 7 | | 16 | | 3 | |
| Biblical Hebrew III **(BIB386)** | | Level 7 | | 16 | | 3 | |
| NT Studies II (Acts & Epistles) **(REB338)** | | Level 6 | | 8 | | 3 | |
| Systematic Theology III **(RET347)** | | Level 6 | | 12 | | 3 | |
| NT Studies III Acts & Epistles **(REB339)** | | Level 7 | | 8 | | 3 | |
| Pastoral Practicum III **(REP303)** | | Level 6 | | 8 | | 3 | |
| Missiology II Urban Min & Comm **(REM381)** | | Level 6 | | 12 | | 3 | |
| OT Studies III Latter Prophets **(REB316)** | | Level 7 | | 8 | | 3 | |
| Church History I **(REH 341)** | | Level 6 | | 12 | | 3 | |
| Studies in Denominational Finance **(REP388)** | | Level 5 | | 8 | | 3 | |

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| **Module** | **NQF level** | | **Credits** | | **Year level** | |
| Moral Philosophy  & Ethics **(REP325)** | | Level 6 | | 12 4 | |
| Research Paper I **(BHS428)** | Level 8 | | 28 | | 4 | |
| Life & Teachings of EGW **(RET462)** | Level 6 | | 12 | | 4 | |
| Missiology III World Religions **(REM481)** | Level 7 | | 12 | | 4 | |
| Systematic Theology IV **(RET473)** | Level 7 | | 16 | | 4 | |
| Apocalyptic Studies II (Revelation) **(REB431)** | Level 7 | | 12 | | 4 | |
| Church History II **(REH424)** | Level 7 | | 16 | | 4 | |
| Pastoral Ministry & Leadership **(REP427)** | Level 7 | | 12 | | 4 | |
|  | | | | | | |

Total Compulsory credits: 480