



NZ Diploma in Christian Studies

Theological Studies Level 5

www.pathways.ac.nz

Understand The Diploma

Purpose

Contribute to the mission of Christian churches, agencies and community organisations in leadership positions to manage people, administer events and provide strategic leadership.

Aims

The aim of this programme is to equip people who can evaluate, deliver and lead ministry programmes within their specialist areas in a variety of occupations and contexts in Christian churches, agencies and community organisations.

Outcomes

Graduates may continue to contribute to the mission of a Church, agency or community organisation in a voluntary capacity or employed in leadership roles in a range of contexts e.g. within Churches, Youth Groups, Camps, Small Groups, Children's Ministry. Graduates may also continue into Degree programmes in Theology, Divinity or Christian Studies.

*Work out
your
Faith*

Graduates will be known for their:

- ✓ Christ-Like Character
- ✓ Biblical & Theological Knowledge Base
- ✓ Evaluative and Strategic Thinking
- ✓ Emerging Christian Leadership Skills
- ✓ Cultural and Ethical Responsiveness

METHOD OF STUDY:

Full-time (1 year) or
Part-time (2 years)



Understand The Delivery

The New Zealand Diploma in Christian Studies (Theological Studies) is a one-year full-time, or two-year part-time, programme, designed to blend 16 hours theory and 16 hours of practical ministry each week by connecting classroom and context through an internship model. It is delivered through a mixture of these methods:



- **Internships**

Students are connected to a ministry organisation (church, mission, or marketplace) throughout the year. This connection is established by the end of the first block course in February with the student beginning their placement in their chosen organisation in March. This allows for genuine integration of theory and practice as students work through their courses while simultaneously having the opportunity to be in their ministry organisation.

- **Face-To-Face (Block Weeks)**

Students meet together six times throughout the programme (typically for a week): once at the very beginning of the programme, and then five other times at strategic points in the programme. These are known as Block Weeks. Teaching and learning approaches during this time prioritise the opportunity to develop/ practise skills, hear and engage with experienced leaders and participate in workshops. Importantly, these times provide the opportunity to share the results of their own study and inquiry with each other and to continue to build relational connections – to do what is not able, or not so easily able to be undertaken online.

- **Online**

Pathways College has been expanding and developing its expertise with online teaching and learning for many years and it is through this delivery method that students access course material, assessment tasks and resources to support their learning. Online components of this programme are hosted on the Moodle Learning System (Pathways Connect).



Understand The Content

The **NZDipCS (Level 5)** is an **approved NZQA programme** with a total of **120 credits** as outlined below:

- Christian History
(5 credits)
- Interpreting the Bible
(10 credits)
- Biblical Survey: Old Testament and New Testament (10 credits)
- Theology (15 credits)
- The Life of Christ: Living the Faith
(15 credits)
- Negotiated Ministry Practice (5 credits)
- Supervised Ministry Training (Ministry)
(30 credits)
- Extended Supervised Ministry Training
(Ministry) (30 credits)

50%
study / 50%
ministry





Block Weeks

By the beach

As part of this programme students attend regular Block Weeks. It's a good opportunity for a cohort to connect with each other while benefiting from face-to-face lectures. Plus, students stay at Pacific Park Christian Holiday Camp, which is close by the pristine white sand and surf of Papamoa Beach.

Block Weeks are a highlight for students, Pathways staff and lecturers. Sharing meals together evokes a sense of community and there is time to enjoy a stroll on the beach, or a coffee fix at local cafés.



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I never expected to study again, but God had a different plan. I have been called to study and called into an internship. And now that I am here, I wouldn't want to be anywhere else.

– Arron Hockly, Pathways College Student 2025.



Let's get

Connected



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