Cornerstone
Learn to change the world

Brochure 2026/2027

Bachelor of Theology in Community Leadership

YOUR STORY

Do you want to live a life of purpose? Do you worry about the state of the world? Do you genuinely want to make a difference to the lives of others? Are you looking for more than just a qualification? Is leaving a lasting legacy important to you? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we have a lot in common.

Cornerstone is the institution to help you realise your life's purpose and grow your ambition. While doing so, you will develop and nurture the values that you share with Cornerstone Institute, which will assist you in taking your place in a vibrant and thriving economy. Together, we will learn to change the world.

OUR STORY

We believe in education with a purpose. At the heart of our education philosophy is the firm belief that education leads to transformation.

Cornerstone Institute has been generating knowledge that benefits humanity since 1970. We began with two black theology students who were barred from attending university because of the colour of their skin. Today, hundreds of Cornerstone graduates from all walks of life are making a difference around the globe.

A MESSAGE FROM FACULTY

Together we can learn to change the world

At Cornerstone Institute, our motto is: Learn to change the world. It's a very simple sentence, but to us, it carries significant meaning.

The obvious meaning is: Learn how to change the world. And that is true because, at Cornerstone, you will learn new knowledge and skills that will equip you to enter the new world of work and build a career that will positively impact society.

The second meaning is the less obvious but, the more important one: To change the world, learn. We believe you can only change the world if you continue learning. To learn is to grow – first, as a person in connection with other human beings. It is a lifelong journey that may include but by far transcends formal studies and qualifications. As we travel this road with other people who share different parts of our journey, we learn from them, and they learn from us.

Will any single individual ever change the entire world? Probably not! But you can change your world. And we would love to be part of that journey.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (BTh)

OVERVIEW

The programme offers a contemporary approach to studying Theology and Ethics, reflecting on faith, human dignity and social justice in urbanised Africa. Students from different Christian traditions dialogue about historical theological ideas and the challenge of interpreting them in current times. Students learn to value theological thought, but also to respond practically and responsibly to societal issues.

Bachelor of Theology students can customise their majors and courses, keeping their career goals, vocation and interests in mind, to ensure that they're fully equipped for specific professions. A core focus of the BTh programme is an academic grounding in the theological disciplines of Biblical Studies, Practical Theology, and Systematic Public Theology. In addition to this core theological focus, students can choose a further specialisation in Christian Ministry, Psychology or Sociology and Community Development.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Cornerstone Institute has been teaching Theology for over 50 years and continues to strive for students to embrace embodied forms of social justice that give honour to God and speak love to the neighbour.

Our contemporary learning approach to Theology celebrates the diversity that creates impactful work in academic, church, and public spheres. Students develop vision, creativity, interpretation and religious sensitivity – enabling them to work in a variety of occupations and to bring about change in an unjust world.

- **Christian Ministry**
- **Psychology**
- **Sociology & Community Development**

ACCREDITATION STATUS

All our programmes are accredited by the Council on Higher Education and registered by the Department of Higher Education and Training. Cornerstone Institute (RF) NPC is registered by the Department of Higher Education and Training as a Private Higher Education Institution under the Higher Education Act, 1997. Registration Certificate No. 2001/HE08/006.

- **Bachelor of Theology in Community Leadership: Contact mode. Registered by the DHET.** Accredited by the CHE as a 360-credit learning programme for higher education at NQF level 7. SAQA ID: 57225. CHE reference: H/PRO96/K005CAN

LEGAL STATUS
Cornerstone Institute is a non-profit company (NPC); registration number 2004/025078/08.

MODE OF DELIVERY
*Note that 'Contact Mode' means on-campus studies, and 'Distance Mode' means online studies.

CONTACT MODE
Contact students experience and engage learning at different levels within the classroom. Here students are exposed to lectures presented by passionate, experienced and knowledgeable faculty; group work where the value of learning from peers is amplified; multimedia presentations; role-play; engagement with case studies; and, skills development where students are encouraged to practice certain skills (e.g. communication, presentations, etc.) in the classroom.

ON-LINE MODE
Distance students experience and engage learning at different levels within the virtual learning space enabled by our e-learning platform, called FUNDA. Students are exposed to learning material presented by passionate, experienced and knowledgeable faculty who understand the needs of the distance student. Learning on the e-learning platform takes the form of video lectures, voice-over PowerPoint, readings and discussion forums where student-faculty engagement is facilitated. While learning is primarily self-driven,
students have access to experienced faculty and can draw on their classmates as they navigate their learning. The learning experience is vibrant, stimulating and interactive.

Experiential learning strategies are integrated in the design of modules and can include counselling placements (including interviews with clients, treatment plans, session notes and supervision sessions), psychometric evaluations, quantitative research, self-directed ministry projects, community assessments, focus groups, placements in community projects and envisioning of local community-based initiatives.

LANGUAGE POLICY
All classes and communication with students, staff, and the public are in English, except where otherwise required in modules based on other languages.

DISCLAIMER
Cornerstone Institute makes every effort to ensure that the information provided in this brochure is accurate and up to date. However, it may be necessary for Cornerstone Institute to make some changes to the information presented in the following document.

This document should be read together with the policies, rules, and regulations of Cornerstone Institute (as may be amended from time to time).

We recommend that you look at the relevant sections in the yearbook of faculties and departments in which you may be interested if you have any additional queries.

Bachelor of Theology in Community Leadership
(Minimum 3 years, 360 credits, NQF 7)
Modes of delivery: distance

Contact mode will be available from Semester 2, subject to meeting the minimum student enrolment requirements.

Admission requirements

- A National Senior Certificate (NSC) with a bachelor's pass or equivalent
- A Matriculation Certificate (with university exemption) or equivalent
- A Higher Certificate or Advanced Certificate or Diploma in a cognate field
- National Benchmark Test (NBT) results

Alternative Admission Requirements (with Senate approval as per Admissions Policy)

- A National Senior Certificate or National Certificate Vocational with a diploma pass (or equivalent) combined with the NBT results
- Mature age of 23 and over during the first year of studies and a National Senior Certificate (or equivalent). The conditions of the Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) Policy for access and the results of the NBT are determining factors for admission. Contact the admissions office regarding RPL
- Mature age of 45 years can be admitted, determined by the RPL conditions and the results of the NBT

Applicants in the first category under Alternative Admission Requirements must register for the Extended Programme for Academic Development. The Programme extends the completion of the prescribed subjects over a minimum of four years.

Academic Development concentrates on the skills needed for successful tertiary study. Special attention is paid to listening and reading for comprehension, writing clearly and logically and giving proper credit to sources utilised. Students will develop these essential skills through exposure to readings and talks, and practice these skills in a supportive environment where they will receive detailed feedback.

Students who are admitted on the basis of prior learning and who want to complete the degree in three years, but who fail more than 20% of modules taken during the first semester, are required to take the first year over two years.

Target groups
The Bachelor of Theology (BTh) in Community Leadership aims to provide access for Grade 12 learners to a degree programme equipping them with skills to be more effective leaders in the community in the areas of psychology, church and parachurch leadership and community development. The programme can be taken part-time (maximum 9 years), for those who are only able to pursue part-time studies.

Programme-specific outcomes
BTh students must choose between Christian Ministry, Psychology, Sociology and Community Development, and Media Studies. Each focus has its own specified core and elective modules from the curriculum below. Outcomes are set for each area of focus, as outlined below. Each module within the curriculum also has its own set of outcomes.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (CHRISTIAN MINISTRY) (contact and distance)

EXIT LEVEL OUTCOME

Christian Ministry students who have completed the qualification must be able to:

- Demonstrate the skill to interpret the Bible as an ancient text of different genres and understand the Bible as the written and preached Word of God relevant for today.
- Articulate faith expressions of main doctrines and dialogue about convictions relevant to the community.
- Demonstrate an understanding of the historical development of faith expressions and doctrines concerning influential figures, biblical texts, and societal changes.
- Evaluate various leadership styles, identify personal leadership styles, and identify, develop, and empower leadership potential in others.
- Demonstrate effective and spiritual leadership skills, including communication, planning, change and transformation management, resource development, implementation, and evaluation.
- Demonstrate the ability to do independent research to give a particular understanding of vocation considering theological underpinnings, biblical exegesis, personal reflections, and social integration.
- Demonstrate competence in one of the following, depending on the focus area selected:

7.1) The knowledge and skills necessary to conduct a Christian ministry, including Word and liturgical ministry, pastoral care, spiritual well-being, and public engagement.
7.2) Knowledge of current psycho-social theory and pastoral care theory, and practical skills for counselling and intervention.
7.3) Knowledge of social theory, community development, and skills such as cultural awareness and sensitivity to diverse peoples in various communities.

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (PSYCHOLOGY) (contact and distance)

OUTCOMES

Psychology students who have completed the qualification must be able to:

- Understand the principles, concepts, history and major approaches in Psychology
- Identify psycho-social problems and understand the insights, theories and methods Psychology provides for dealing with them
- Understand how psycho-social insights and methods should be utilised in the various spheres of mental health in South Africa
- Have an understanding of how and when to refer people to other agencies more suited to handlin problems of a psycho-social nature
- Develop, implement and evaluate psychologically based training programmes

BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY IN COMMUNITY LEADERSHIP (SOCIOLOGY AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT)

OUTCOMES

Sociology and Community Development students who have completed the qualification must be able to:

- Understand their own culture and appreciate the values of other cultures
- Understand the competing paradigms of Community Development with a strong emphasis on South Africa
- Demonstrate effective interpersonal communication skills
- Understand the psycho-social problems facing South Africans today, with an emphasis on poverty and poverty alleviation
- Identify urban and rural issues facing South Africans and understand how to develop community-based initiatives to address them
- Develop a ministry plan, secure the necessary human and fiscal resources, execute the plan and assess the outcomes
- Demonstrate skill in interpreting the Bible and showing its relevance for community development issues in South Africa
- Develop skills that will help them identify Community Development problems and be able to challenge conventional Community Development practices.

Disclaimer for potential low enrolments per programme

If the required number is not reached by the end of the registration period, the programme will only receive new students in the next registration period. New students already registered for the programme will be advised on available options, and paid fees will be refunded where applicable. Students who have already completed one or more semesters will not be affected.

For a description of each module, please refer to the "Module Descriptions" section in the Yearbook, available on our website.

www.cornerstone.ac.za

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SCAN THE QR CODE FOR MORE INFORMATION