

Master of Arts (Ageing and Pastoral Studies)

This course articulates with the existing
Graduate Certificate in Ageing and Pastoral Studies and
Graduate Diploma of Ageing and Pastoral Studies

Course guide. The course is available by distance education.

Students must satisfactorily complete 96 points, 64 which may be credited from the Graduate Diploma course. (each subject is worth 8 points unless stated otherwise)

Course structure:

THL445 Psychosocial and Spiritual Development in Older People

THL446 Pastoral Care and Elderly People

THL451 Ethical and Theological Issues in Ageing

THL459 The Ageing Person: Challenges for Body and Spirit

Plus restricted electives from:

THL447 Pastoral Care in Mental Health and Dementia

WEL322 Loss and Grief in Gerontology

THL448 Independent Guided Study in Ageing (not to be taken by students proceeding to the Masters stream B: Research)

THL462 Theological perspectives on Ageing

SWK504 Human Services Research Methods (or another approved research methods subject for those taking the Masters stream B: Research)

Masters Stream A: Course work

THL463 Pastoral Care in Ageing: Family and Social Contexts (autumn semester)

THL464 Dementia: Challenge for Pastoral Care (autumn semester)

THL465 Dying, Death and Pastoral Care in Ageing (spring semester)

THL466 Pastoral Practice in Ageing: Politics, Policy, Principles and Practice (spring semester)

Masters Stream B: Research

THL467 Research Project in Ageing and Pastoral Studies (32 points) (both semesters)

THL463 Pastoral Care in Ageing: Family and Social Contexts

This subject studies the ageing person in the context of their family and social milieu. The significance of relationships for the well being of older people is examined, as are approaches to pastoral, ritual, ethical and spiritual dimensions of care. Selected contexts of ageing are explored, including migrants, singles, gays, and indigenous persons. Contexts of care studied include family and non-family carers and the opportunities and difficulties that may arise. Appropriate pastoral responses to stressful issues such as isolation, abuse, and homelessness are examined.

THL464 Dementia: Challenge for Pastoral Care

Prerequisites: THL447 Pastoral Care in Mental Health and Dementia.

This subject examines current understandings of dementia: biological, genetic, psychological, social and spiritual. It includes analyses of public policy, ethics and dementia and examines dementia. An important component of this subject is an examination of dementia as a theological challenge to the understanding of the human person.

THL465 Dying, Death and Pastoral Care in Ageing

Prerequisites: WEL322 Loss and Grief in Gerontology

This subject presents a wholistic approach to death and dying in the later part of life, with a focus on pastoral and theological considerations. It examines religious, spiritual, and secular perspectives on death and dying. The subject also explores experiences and portrayals of dying and death in a multicultural society. Ethical aspects and rituals surrounding death and dying are considered from a variety of different religious traditions.

THL466 Pastoral Practice in Ageing: Politics, Policy, Principles and Practice

This subject examines current practice of pastoral care in ageing, within a context of policy, politics, principles of care as well as actual practice in a multifaith and multicultural society. Historical perspectives on community attitudes to the aged and their care are considered. The subject also considers political and policy directions in the care of ageing people, and the way these are influenced by the churches' philosophy and pastoral practice in Australia. The anticipation of future needs in an ageing society and their implications for the role of pastoral care are analysed.

THL467 Research Project in Ageing and Pastoral Studies (32 points)

Prerequisite: SWK323 Methods of Social Inquiry or another approved research methods subject.

The subject is required for the research stream (Stream B) for the Master of Arts (Ageing and Pastoral Studies)

Students work with a supervisor to design, develop and complete a project (15,000-20,000 words) in ageing and pastoral studies. The project includes a major review of relevant literature.