

# Graduate Diploma in **Pastoral and Spiritual care**



I can honestly say that Whitley helped me to meet God in a new way that has changed my life. Whitley also gave me a community, a set of relationships and friendships that to this day challenge and nurture my faith. I will value these for the rest of my life."

– Katrina, Whitley Alumni



# Why Whitley?

- **Inclusive** - Whitley is an inclusive environment. We respect a range of opinions. We welcome people of different ages, demographics, cultures, nationalities and Christian denominations, cherishing the breadth of experiences and perspectives this brings.
- **Biblical** - At Whitley College we are shaped by God's Word. Our values come from the Holy Bible and our practices are informed by the Baptist Church.
- **Individual** - Studying theology at Whitley is not one-size-fits-all. Whatever stage you're at in life we have individual learning programs to suit. Choose your level of commitment and enrich your life and the lives of those around you.
- **Flexible** - At Whitley College, you're sure to find an option that best suits your life. Go online or onsite, be part-time or full-time.

## Graduate Diploma in Pastoral and Spiritual Care

This Graduate Diploma course provides students with the skills for critical engagement in spiritual care and pastoral contexts. Students will engage secular practices and Christian traditions of care to develop relevant, flexible strategies for effective pastoral mission and practices of care.

### Why study the Graduate Diploma in Pastoral and Spiritual Care?

Graduates of this course:

- ✓ **Have knowledge of sources, terms and concepts** required for theological engagement of care practices
- ✓ **Apply their own experience and practice** to social, cultural and behavioural studies and offer an integration of these with the Christian tradition
- ✓ **Have skills to explore issues** of Christian identity, personal vocation and self-awareness in care contexts
- ✓ **Apply advanced pastoral helping skills** with an ability to engage care practices with a theological lens

### Who is the Graduate Diploma in Pastoral and Spiritual Care for?

- Do you wish to be more fully equipped for Christian life and service in the world?
- Do you desire to deepen your understanding of spiritual and pastoral care practices so as to better serve others in your professional and ministry settings?

This Graduate Diploma is for you if you want to develop your understanding of spiritual and pastoral care models and methods, equipping you to respond to a diverse range of needs in a variety of contexts such as church ministry, education, health and aged care and community organisations.

# Course Overview

## Vocational opportunities

Depending on the pathway you take during your study, you will be prepared to provide chaplaincy and spiritual care in a range of Christian ministries and secular organisations.

It can lead to vocations such as:

- Church-based pastoral ministries
- Baptist Union of Victoria ordination program
- Chaplaincy
- Hospital-based spiritual care
- Aged care-based spiritual care

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## Commitment



- Full-time - 1 year OR
- Part-time - up to 3 years

Choose a commitment that best serves you!

## Study Pathways



- Pastoral Care Program or
- Spiritual Care Program

### Pastoral Care Program

The Pastoral Program is made up of 6 standard postgraduate units, with the option to incorporate 2 Supervised Theological Field Education (STFE) units. The STFE units will allow students to integrate their key learnings in a practical Pastoral Care setting, with guidance and supervision.

### Spiritual Care Program

The Spiritual Care Program is made up of 6 standard postgraduate units, with the option to incorporate units in Clinical Pastoral Education. Students will apply their key learnings with supervision and support.



Whitley is an open community that listens and shares, while empowering folks to challenge and confront the hard questions that come with following Jesus."

- Gemma, Whitley Alumni





# Course Structure

The Graduate Diploma in Pastoral and Spiritual Care is offered in two programs.

The pastoral care program is aimed at supporting those in church and Christian faith-based settings who require integrated knowledge and advanced skills in pastoral care practice.

The spiritual care program is aimed at supporting carers and practitioners involved in multifaith clinical settings providing advanced knowledge and practice in spiritual care as well as supervised clinical experience in spiritual care.

## Pastoral Care Program

### Core Units

1. Foundations of Spiritual and Pastoral Care
2. Pastoral Care: Communal Response
3. Pastoral and Spiritual Care in Suffering, Grief and Loss

### Foundational Units

Select 2 units from a set list\*

### Elective

Select 1 unit

## Spiritual Care Program

### Core Units

1. Foundations of Spiritual and Pastoral Care
2. Pastoral and Spiritual Care in Suffering, Grief and Loss
3. Dementia, Palliative Care and End-of-Life-Care

### Foundational Unit

Select 2 units from a set list\*

### Elective

Select 1 unit

### Supervised Units\*\*\*

- Supervised Theological Field Education (STFE) Foundations
- Supervised Theological Field Education (STFE) Advanced

### Clinical Care Units\*\*\*

Clinical Pastoral Education Level 1\*\*

\*Students who have completed a Bible and Theology subject in previous courses may select other Field D care based electives

\*\*Suitability of CPE options will be evaluated with student adviser prior to commencement

\*\*\*Program can be varied to incorporate one of these options in consultation with the Academic Dean



## Electives<sup>+</sup>

- Wellbeing@home
- Pastoral Care: Communal Response

\*Availability may vary each semester

“Whitley has helped my perspectives to broaden. Not only has my knowledge grown, but I have experienced first-hand how people of different age groups, gender, culture and theological approaches, come together in Christ.”  
– Junho, Whitley Student

## Next steps



1 Visit our website for more information

2 Fill out the enquiry form

3 We'll reach out and answer your questions

4 Fill out the paperwork and you'll be ready to go!

## Ready to find out more?



Scan the QR code or visit [whitley.edu.au/study/study-options/postgraduate-coursework/graduate-diploma-in-pastoral-and-spiritual-care/](https://whitley.edu.au/study/study-options/postgraduate-coursework/graduate-diploma-in-pastoral-and-spiritual-care/)

For a detailed course structure, complete list of foundational subjects and electives, admission requirements, fee structure, timetable and detailed learning outcomes.

### Keen to chat?

Contact one of our friendly staff, **P** +61 3 9340 8100 or **E** [whitley@whitley.edu.au](mailto:whitley@whitley.edu.au)



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*Whitley College is a college of the University of Divinity*