COURSE HANDBOOK

ALPHACRUCIS COLLEGE

MASTER OF LEADERSHIP

OVERVIEW

INFLUENTIAL, VISIONARY, PIONEER		
The Master of Leadership (MLE) develops your leadership potential to be an effective leader and leadership mentor. Explore issues of leadership integrity and build a leadership tool kit	Program Director	Rev Dr Daniel Thornton
	Level	AQF Level 9 (Postgraduate)
	Qualification	Masters Degree (Coursework)
	Subjects	12
	IELTS	7.0
	CRICOS Code	084481E
	Accreditation	Self-accreditation
	Course Length	1.5 years full-time (commencing in Semester 2); 2 years full-time (commencing in Semester 1); or Up to 7 years part-time

The Master of Leadership program draws on Alphacrucis College's expertise in leadership and record of educating successful leaders. It provides a core of leadership knowledge and professional application, while allowing students to explore areas of specific interest in pastoral, educational and business leaders. The purpose of this Level 9 Masters coursework program is to provide an advanced body of knowledge and professional application for graduates in a variety of contexts in the key area of leadership.

The Master of Leadership will produce graduates with in-depth understanding of leadership, integrated with Christian worldview, vocation and community standards. Graduates will be equipped with advanced leadership theory and be able to apply this in practical settings, as well as developing skills in critical thinking, problem-solving, teamwork, and communication. It will also prepare students for further study through a structured program of independent research culminating in the integrative research project.

AC GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES

Christian Worldview

A knowledge of the Christian story, derived from the Scriptures and tradition of the church. An awareness of the implications of this story for self-identity in the context of local and global communities. This includes a commitment to engage with alternate worldviews, showing appreciation of the values and perspectives of others.

Leadership

The ability to provide effective Christian leadership to individuals, groups and organisations, demonstrated in the capacity to influence and enable others to accomplish worthwhile objectives which contribute to the human good and the kingdom of God. This includes seeking to emulate the example of Jesus Christ in serving and empowering others.

Integrity and Justice

The ability to apply a Christian worldview in the diverse situations and responsibilities of life, and to exercise faith, hope, love and generosity as prevailing attitudes. This includes the active promotion of the gospel, social justice, equality, mutual respect and an ecological ethos.

Communications

The ability to communicate effectively to a range of audiences, in appropriate contexts using high levels of verbal, written and technological skills. This includes visual and media literacy, numeracy, rhetoric and persuasion.

Personal and Social Skills

Demonstrate relational skills that incorporate the flexibility for both independent and collaborative situations. This includes personal and group organizational skills, conflict management and resolution, as well as the ability to value and respect the opinions of others.

Critical and Creative Thinking

A capacity for critical and reflective thinking that is explored not only individually but within a community context. This includes a capacity to be creative and to research, analyse and resolve problems in innovative and prophetic ways.

Professional Knowledge

Use and maintain knowledge about a discipline or field, in terms of theoretical, conceptual and methodological elements, striving continually and independently to secure further knowledge and where appropriate, defined professional skills.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	AQF Level 9 Masters Degree (Coursework)	AC Learning outcomes
Knowledge	Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will have: • a body of knowledge that includes the understanding of recent developments in a discipline and/or area of professional practice; • knowledge of research principles and methods applicable to a field of work and or learning.	Demonstrated: • advanced and integrated understanding of key issues and practices within leadership; • knowledge of scholarship and recent developments in the areas of educational, church or not-for-profit leadership; • understanding of general research principles and methods, and advanced knowledge of specific research approaches used in the selected specialisation.
Skills	Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will have: • cognitive skills to demonstrate mastery of theoretical knowledge and to reflect critically on theory and professional practice or scholarship; • cognitive, technical and creative skills to investigate, analyse and synthesise complex information, problems, concepts and theories and to apply established theories to different bodies of knowledge or practice; • cognitive, technical and creative skills to generate and evaluate complex ideas and concepts at an abstract level; • communication and technical research skills to justify and interpret theoretical propositions, methodologies, conclusions and professional decisions to specialist and non-specialist audiences; • technical and communication skills to design, evaluate, implement, analyse and theorise about developments that contribute to professional practice or scholarship.	• Demonstrated ability to: • evaluate, synthesise and critically engage the theoretical knowledge using appropriate methodologies and theories from the discipline; • analyse and synthesise ideas and theories from other disciplines related to the area of specialisation; • design a research question that explores a complex issue and to provide possible solution(s) to the problem raised; • communicate effectively complex ideas and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences; • critically evaluate new developments of scholarship in the field of leadership.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

Specification	AQF Level 9 Masters Degree (Coursework)	Learning outcomes
Application of knowledge and skills	Graduates of a Masters Degree (Coursework) will have: • with creativity and initiative to new situations in professional practice and/or for further learning; • with high level personal autonomy and accountability; • to plan and execute a substantial research-based project, capstone experience and/or piece of scholarship.	Demonstrated ability to: • apply the knowledge and skills developed to develop appropriate evidence based solutions to new situations; • work independently, responsibly and with the level of professionalism expected of a practiced professional with an advanced level of expertise in leadership; • design and implement a major research project in the selected specialisation.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course structure applies to students that commenced between 2016 and 2019

The course structure is based on three semesters (each of 12 weeks duration, plus an exam week), with four subjects taught in each semester. It comprises:

- 6 core subjects (4 compulsory)
- 1 compulsory capstone research subject
- 5 electives

To qualify for award of the degree of Master of Leadership a candidate shall complete at least 120 credit points, including satisfactory completion of the core subjects noted below.

CONTENT OF THE COURSE OF STUDY		CREDIT POINTS
CORE SUBJECTS	THE401 Christian Worldview LEA401 Introduction to Leadership BUS560 Finance COM505 Intercultural Communication 2 subjects to be chosen from: • LEA550 Governance, Law, Ethics • LEA404 Leadership Theory and Skills • LEA535 Organisational Leadership	10 10 10 10 20
CAPSTONE (COMPULSORY)	RES590 Integrative Research Project	10
ELECTIVE SUBJECTS	5 subjects taken from accredited Level 8 or 9 subjects offered by the College, such as: LEA501 Human Resources Management LEA530 Strategic Thinking BUS547 Entrepreneurship, Business and Mission BUS585 Church and Not-for-Profit Law BUS590 Information Systems Management EDU520 Educational Leadership THE550 Theology and Economics	5 x 10
OTHER PROTOCOLS OF THE COURSE	There are no other protocols of the Master of Leadership.	
BRIDGING/ NESTED COURSES	The Graduate Certificate of Leadership is a nested course within the Master of Leadership.	

For information on the teaching faculty for these subjects, please visit our website.

COURSE STRUCTURE

This course structure applies to students that commenced after Semester 2 2019

The course structure is based on three semesters (each of 13 weeks duration), with four subjects taught in each semester. It comprises:

- 40 cp core subjects
- 30 cp subjects in specialisation*
- 40 cp electives
- 10 cp Capstone subject

To qualify for award of the degree of Master of Leadership a candidate shall accrue an aggregate of at least 120 credit points, including satisfactory completion of the core subjects noted below.

*No specialisation is required for the MLead, but should students wish to specialise in Educational Leadership, Pastoral Ministry, or Not-for-Profit, they need to complete the specialisation units as specified in this document. Students who do not wish to graduate with a specialisation can choose up to 70 cp elective subjects from accredited Level 8 and 9 subjects offered by the College.

CONTENT OF THE COURSE OF STUDY		CREDIT POINTS
CORE SUBJECTS	LEA401 Introduction to Leadership LEA535 Organisational Leadership OR LEA404 Leadership Theory and Skills LEA550 Governance, Law, and Ethics THE401 Christian Worldview	6 x 10
SPECIALISATION (MAJOR)	**Church Leadership Specialisation** MIN507 Church and Society MIN508 Church Planting 10 cp BIB/COM/LEA/MIN/THE 400 level or above **Entrepreneurship Specialisation** LEA511 Creativity and Entrepreneurship BUS547 Entrepreneurship Business and Mission 10 cp ACC/BUS/COM/HRM/LEA/MAN/MKT 400 level or above **Educational Leadership Specialisation*** EDU570 Planting New Schools LEA525 Maintaining Christian Identity and Mission 10 cp LEA/EDU 400 level or above **Not-for-Profit Leadership Specialisation*** LEA525 Maintaining Christian Identity and Mission LEA545 Social Policy Context for NFP Leadership 10 cp BUS/COM/HRM/LEA/MAN/MKT 400 level or above **Specialisations not currently available. Enquire with Program Director before enrolling.*	3 x 10
ELECTIVE SUBJECTS	40 cp subjects taken from accredited Level 8 and 9 (400, 500 or 600 level) subjects offered by the College, including subjects not taken from other specialisations.	4 x 10

COURSE STRUCTURE

CAPSTONE SUBJECT	One of the following: RES591 Leadership Research Project RES501 Research Project Note: Students who may have potential to pursue a Higher Degree Research course are recommended to choose RES501 (20 cp)	 10 20
RULES OF PROGRESSION	MLead with Specialisation: 40 cp core, 30 cp specialisation, 40 cp electives, and 10 cp capstone subject. **OR** MLead without Specialisation: 40 cp core, 70 cp electives, and 10 cp capstone subject. At least 40 cp of electives must be in BUS/COM/HRM/LEA/MAN/MKT	
OTHER PROTOCOLS OF THE COURSE	10 credit points per subject with 1 point being 10 hours of study per week. Total hours per subject is 130 hours. No more than 6 subjects at 400 level.	

Graduate Pathways

Students who have successfully completed the Master of Leadership may progress into a higher degree research course of study. Direct entry into this pathway is not guaranteed. Graduates are advised to contact the Student Support Team further information on the eligibility requirements for these courses of study.

Career Opportunities

Graduates may find employment in ministry or church-based organisations (e.g. senior pastor of a church); become part of the next generation of leaders of not-for-profit organisations; take up leadership or management positions in schools (e.g. Vice-principal), or various management positions in for-profit businesses. Additionally, graduates may progress further in the pathway toward doctoral studies upon completion of the program.

Work Integrated Learning

Work Integrated Learning may be undertaken through various Professional Practice and Professional Experience subjects at AC. These subjects seek to create a direct linkage between the learning, skills and values engaged in lectures, and the reflection which occurs when these are applied in real-life settings. These work-based training subjects comprise of instruction, academic assessment and a placement in a workplace for each subject. To qualify for the award of the Master of Leadership, a candidate is not required to complete any Professional Practice subjects.

For further information related to Work Integrated Learning please see the Professional Practice Handbook on Moodle or contact our Student Support team.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

Academic Entry Requirements

Applicants with Recent Secondary Education

This course of study requires the completion of a higher education qualification by an authorised institution. Applicants with recent high school education only are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

Applicants with Vocational Education and Training Study

This course of study requires the completion of a higher education qualification by an authorised institution. Applicants with a Vocational Education and Training (VET) qualification only are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

Applicants with Higher Education Study

Applicants whose highest level of study enrolment since leaving secondary education is a higher education qualification must demonstrate the completion of an AQF Level 7 Bachelor degree (or higher) by an authorised institution for admission into this course.

Applicants with Work and Life Experience

This course of study requires the completion of a higher education qualification by an authorised institution. Applicants who have not completed formal higher education study are not eligible for direct entry into this course.

Essential Requirements

In addition to the academic criteria above, applicants seeking entry into the Master of Leadership must demonstrate a minimum of 3 years' relevant work experience in a managerial or professional leadership role. This may include:

- Ministers in senior leadership positions;
- Managers and leaders in non-government organisations which act to further social or cultural outworking of Christian ministry; or
- Business people who are fulfilling positions of responsibility including team or industry leadership.

Applicants must submit a copy of their CV with a cover letter outlining how they meet the above criteria, or equivalent.

For further information about AC's provisional entry criteria, please see:

- *AC's Admissions Requirements*
- *Higher Education Provisional Entry Policy*
- *Admissions Policy*

English Language Proficiency

Overseas students are required to demonstrate their English proficiency skills. Such students admitted into our programs must attain an overall IELTS (or equivalent) score of 7.0 (with no score below 6.5 in any of the four skills areas). IELTS (or equivalent) is not required for applicants who have undertaken five years of required higher education study (or equivalent) in English from an approved country or who have completed a Certificate IV or higher qualification awarded in English under the Australian Qualification Framework by an authorised institution or registered training organisation.

Applicants are encouraged to contact the International Student Office if they are unsure of the equivalence of their English language proficiency test scores.

Special Admissions Pathways

AC's Admissions Policy details the special admission pathways for our courses of study. The Special Admission Pathways are evaluated on a case-by-case basis by the Program Director. A student's admission requirements may be reconsidered on educational disadvantage grounds, including but not limited to:

- Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, where the normal HSC entry path has not been followed;
- socioeconomic reasons (such as low-family income or poor living conditions);
- learning or language difficulties;
- disrupted schooling;
- physical disability;
- serious family illness or excessive family responsibility;
- geographical isolation of home and/or school;
- completion of a prescribed program of non-award study (four subjects or 40 credit points) with an overall GPA of 1.8 or better.

For a full list of educational disadvantage grounds, please see AC's Admissions Policy.

DIVERSITY AND EQUITY

AC is committed to providing a learning environment that is free from discrimination on the basis of income, age, disability, social and ethnic background, location or gender. AC endeavours to increase opportunities for people of all backgrounds to participate in training programs, and implement programs that take into account the specific needs of participants. AC encourages students to inform AC of any disability, medical condition or learning need that may impact on your studies to arrange a study plan that best suits your needs.

HOW TO APPLY

Once you have chosen your course of study, you will need to apply direct to AC. Applications typically close 3 weeks before semester commences.

All AC application forms are completed online. There are different forms depending on the level of study you are applying for and the location of your course.

Further information on How to Apply and access to AC's Application Forms is available on our website.

Credit transfers and recognised prior learning (RPL)

You may be entitled to credit for prior learning, whether formal or informal. Formal learning can include previous study in higher education, vocational education, or adult and community education. Informal learning can include on the job learning or various kinds of work and life experience. Credit can reduce the amount of study needed to complete a degree.

For further information about credit and recognition of prior learning please see AC's Credit Transfer and Recognition of Prior Learning Policy or contact our Student Support team.

HOW TO ENROL

Once you have returned a signed copy of your Letter of Offer to accept your place at AC, you will be invited to enrol in your specific subjects in the next academic period. Students are advised to consult their timetable (can be found here), review their Academic Advice Sheet and contact the Student Support Team for tailored academic advice before completing the enrolment form.

Applications for credit transfers or recognised prior learning will be communicated to you once they have been processed.

STUDENT SERVICES

Student Support Team

AC's Student Support Team exists to ensure you get from Orientation Day to Graduation Day with a smile on your face!

Academic Support

- Tailored academic guidance
- Assessment variation to accommodate disabilities, medical conditions and/or learning needs
- Exam reader/writers
- One-on-one tutoring and small group workshops for face-to-face and distances students
- Physical libraries
- Access to online journal databases
- Access to eBook resources
- Resources are also provided online for self-development

Non-Academic Support

- Pastoral Care
- Chaplains
- Professional counselling
- Careers guidance
- On –campus childcare*
- Extra-curricular and community services
- SRC – The Student Representative Council
- Recreation areas

Student Life

All students can take part in:

- mission trips and community service projects
- weekly chapel services
- lunches and gatherings on campus
- opportunities to hear or present research
- masterclasses to take your skills and knowledge to the next level
- social events both on and away from campus
- exchange programs with other colleges and universities around the world

…and much, much more! To find out what is happening near you or to get specific details just contact the Student Support Team:

Email: studentsupport@ac.edu.au
Phone: (02) 8893 9005
https://www.ac.edu.au/student-services/

**Not available at all campuses*

STUDENT PROFILE

The table below gives an indication of the likely peer cohort for new students at AC. It provides data on students that commenced study and passed the census date in the most relevant recent intake period for which data are available, including those admitted through all offer rounds and international students studying in Australia.

Applicant background	Semester 1, 2020	
	Number of students	Percentage of all students
(A) Past higher education study (includes a bridging or enabling course)	N/P	N/P
(B) Past vocational education and training (VET) study	N/A	N/A
(C) Work and life experience (Admitted on the basis of previous achievement other than the above)	N/A	N/A
(D) Recent secondary education:		
• Admitted solely on the basis of ATAR (*regardless of whether this includes the impact of adjustment factors such as equity or subject bonus points)*	N/A	N/A
• Admitted where both ATAR and additional criteria were considered *(e.g. portfolio, audition, extra test, early offer conditional on minimum ATAR)*	N/A	N/A
• Admitted on the basis of other criteria only and ATAR was ***not*** a factor *(e.g. special consideration, audition alone, schools recommendation scheme with no minimum ATAR requirement)*	N/A	N/A
International students	N/P	N/P
All students	***14***	***100%***

Note: "<5" – the number of students is less than 5.

N/A – Students not accepted in this category.

N/P – Not published: the number is hidden to prevent calculation of numbers in cells with less than 5 students.

ATAR-based offers only	ATAR
Highest rank to receive an offer	N/A
Median rank to receive an offer	N/A
Lowest rank to receive an offer	N/A

Note: "<5" – the number of students is less than 5.

Note: This table relates to all students made an offer on the basis of ATAR alone or ATAR in combination with other factors. Students admitted into a course of study based on a Special Admission Pathway or otherwise not based on their ATAR are not included in this table.

WHERE TO GET FURTHER INFORMATION

ac.edu.au

AC's website is the best place to discover what's happening at AC and explore our courses, campuses and support services. If you are not yet an AC student, our Future Students team are here to help find the right course for you!

Moodle

Once you begin your studies at AC, you will use Moodle as your Learning Management System (LMS) to access all your subject content, the AC Academic Handbook, Study Skills and Textbook Information. New Students can also use Moodle to view our Induction Videos.

International Students

Nothing beats the experience of being part of our community and participating in our classroom discussions! Alternatively, for students who decide to study from their home country, AC brings education to you by offering many subjects and degrees by distance education allowing you to study from anywhere in the world. Flexible delivery means that you will have access to our e-Learning platform which provides resources, podcasts, online forums and tutor assistance that allows you to complete your studies from your home country.

Further information about International Students, including the application process, international recognition of AC courses of study and FAQ's, is available on our website.

Alternatively, our Future Students team are available to answer any questions you may have about your requirements as an onshore or offshore International Students at AC.

QILT

Thinking about higher education institutions and study areas? Wish you could ask someone about their experience? The QILT website helps you compare official study experience and employment outcomes data from Australian higher education institutions.

TEQSA National Register

The purpose of the TEQSA National Register is to be the authoritative source of information on the status of registered higher education providers in Australia.

Complaints and Grievances

If you are unsatisfied with the outcome of your application, AC's Complaint and Grievance Resolution Policy outlines the procedure for resolving a complaint or grievance.