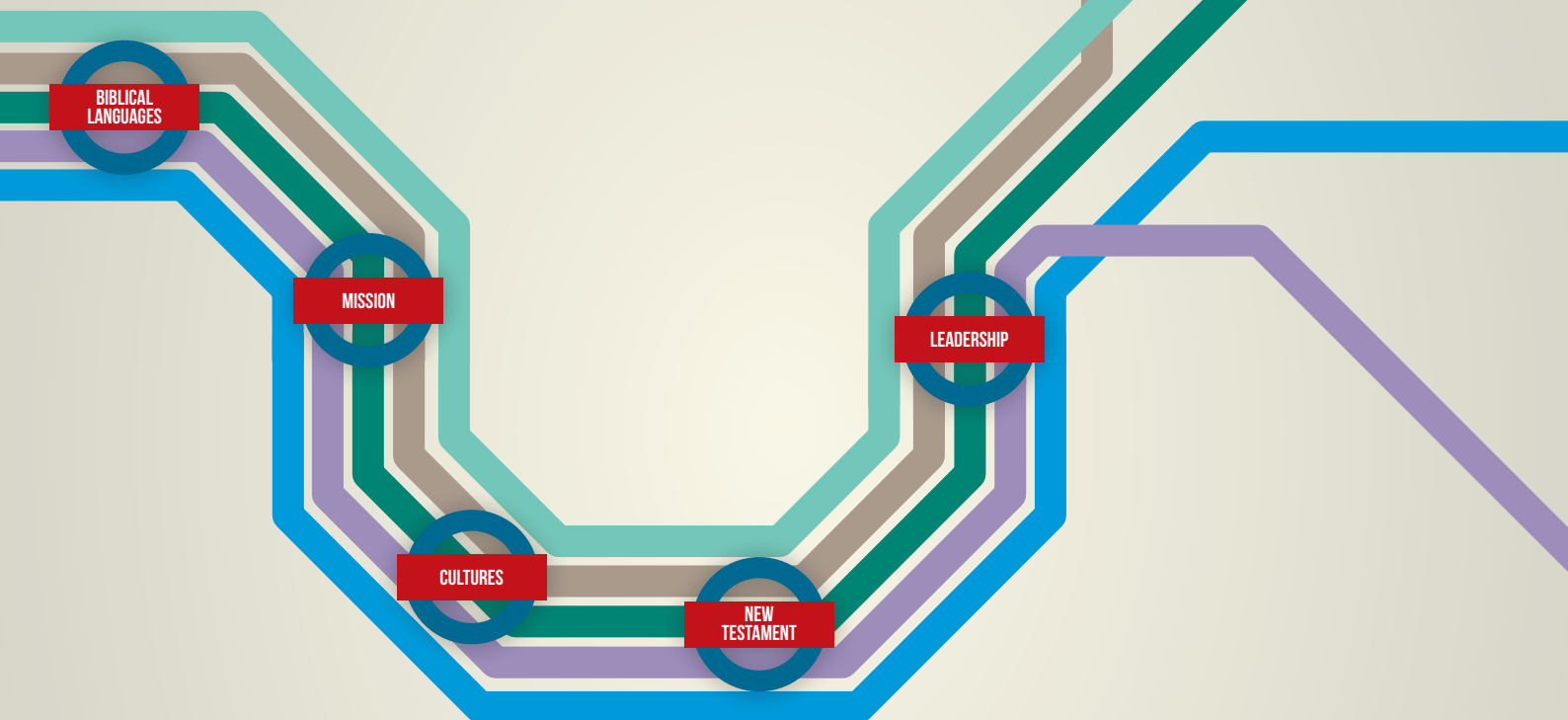
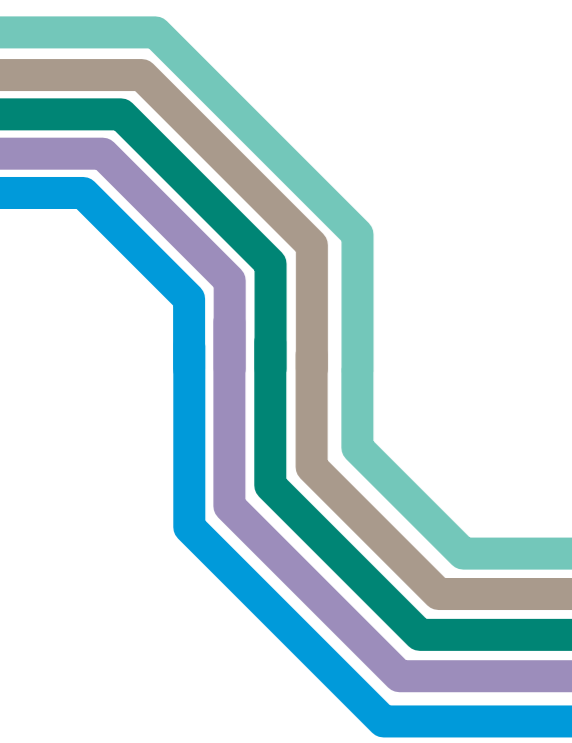


Oak Hill
College



Learning Pathways

THE FOUNDATION DEGREE AT OAK HILL COLLEGE



A degree which delivers

The Foundation Degree is a new, two-year programme, designed to help you understand the Bible and how it applies in contemporary culture.

We want to help you understand the Bible in detail, with a sophisticated understanding of its theology, and the know-how to apply it to the everyday lives of Christian people.

We want you to be able to take it to sceptical and uninterested people as well, so that they hear it, understand it and respond.

We want you to be mature enough to see the whole story of the Bible, and understand how the different aspects of theology build on each other. That way, you'll be able to see ministry as an integrated whole.

We want you to encounter new situations in church or society and think through effective ways of communicating the gospel with them.

Above all, we want you to be taught by the God you love, knowing you have been saved by Jesus' death, and growing under the influence of the Holy Spirit.

Our starting point is our wonderful privilege of knowing God as Father, Son and Holy Spirit. The trinity harmonises the ideas of unity and diversity. That means the knowledge we have of God has enormous variety built into it, without flying apart.

The Foundation degree is consciously designed to start and end with a strong emphasis on unity. That is why there are integrating modules which bring all aspects of theology into a coherent and applied whole. In between are modules which embody diversity. These are different yet connected topics of study which illuminate in

detail the many aspects of theology that must be covered to provide full understanding and a rounded church life.?

How the degree is structured

All students take the same introductory and contextualising modules. For example, a module in cultural exegesis will give you an understanding of the different world views which are current in society today. That in turn will drive your understanding of how to provide relevant ministry in real-world contexts.

At the same time, you will be studying a module in creation and the doctrine of humanity, which places the individual within today's world.

Other modules on biblical theology and the word of God in the study of theology give an introduction to how further topics fit into an overall understanding of God's revelation.

These modules are accompanied by an introduction to pastoral ministry and leadership, plus a module dedicated to theological reflection – which is an innovation at Oak Hill. In this module, you are encouraged to see your past experience and learning in a theological light. You will begin to practise thoughtful meditation and prayer, which will enable you to see beyond mere activity to the hand of God in all things.

In this way, you have what is effectively an induction term. It will give you the big picture: the scope of the Bible and the way it grounds the whole of theological study. But it is also personal and practical. You will gain greater insight into how God has already shaped you,

and you will become ready to be changed by his powerful word and prepared for ministry.

The design of the Foundation degree as a whole has this integrated focus in mind, bringing together academic study, personal formation and practical training.

The middle terms

The middle four terms of the two-year course make this focus more particular. Here the biblical, historical, doctrinal, cultural and practice-based modules are taught, along with biblical languages. They form a core that all students study.

Central modules in Old and New Testament, and an integrated church history and doctrine stream continue until the final term.

Apologetics and preaching modules are compulsory for all students, as is 'Engaging World Religions', while there are choices on subjects such as church planting, philosophy, the pastoral epistles, revivals or aspects of world Christianity.

There are also separate tracks for students on the different specialities, which are Theology for Children and Youth (TCY), the world mission track Theology for Crossing Cultures (TCC), or Theology and Pastoral Studies (TPS). These tracks differ primarily in their practical focus, as you learn to apply your knowledge in the particular sphere you have chosen.

However, even here there is overlap, because all students need an understanding of cross-cultural ministry, whether the culture is that of children and young people, immigrants, overseas situations or the constantly changing British and Western post-postmodern world.

The final term

In the final term of the course, you will again be presented with a wider view, in the cross-disciplinary and synthesising studies of ethics, pastoral care and spirituality. You will also be challenged with a cross-cultural module, as well as thinking about how others inside and outside the church react to evangelicals, and why.

Throughout the course, personal formation is a constant focus. A final project requires integration of all aspects of the degree, including the ability to work cooperatively with others.

The Foundation degree is taught in two, three-term years. The pattern of three terms allows for a healthy distribution of time off throughout the year and coordination with school holidays.

There is as much teaching material as you want. That includes the standard requirements that enable you to pass the degree, of course, but with extra material to challenge you if you want more, or to give you extra help if you are struggling a little.

The teaching style at Oak Hill uses classroom interaction and discussion, which teaches and reinforces ideas more effectively than monologue or tutorials.

Building on the foundation

Having established your foundation, where to then?

The next step after the two-year Foundation degree is the Bachelor's degree (BAHons). Again, you can choose to specialise in any of our three areas: Theology for Children and Youth (TCY), the world mission

track Theology for Crossing Cultures (TCC), or Theology and Pastoral Studies (TPS)

This third year gives you a chance to delve more carefully into these areas, and to do either a short dissertation or a project on the subject of your choice. This takes your foundation and makes it more solid, both wider and stronger. For a lifetime of ministry, you will want to give yourself a thorough basis in Christ through God's word.

You also have an opportunity to consolidate your learning with an MTh in Theology for Crossing Cultures or Theological and Pastoral Studies. The fourth year is a more reflective one, with the chance to do a long dissertation, as well as some very thorough taught modules in different subject areas.

This is a chance to become more integrated, seeing the connections between areas of study at a deeper level than was possible before.

And then... are you out into ministry and on your own forever more? No, because learning never comes to an end! We have made a big effort in the past few years to revise our postgraduate offerings, making them easier for people working in ministry or other jobs to return for ongoing encouragement and training.

We are working towards the Postgraduate Diploma and the MA to be available through part-time and distance learning options, using the web, and through short intensive courses at the College.

As your growth as a Christian continues throughout your lifetime, and your ministry experience also increases, we want to be partners with you. We want to encourage you as you deepen your theological understanding and cultural relevance in your Christian maturity, giving you the study options that will more firmly ground your experience in the word of God.

What do churches need?

All our courses at Oak Hill are designed to serve the church.

Churches need you, passionately in love with God, ready to feed, lead, comfort and guard them in the 21st century of Jesus' reign. By the time you finish your ministry, the spiritual legacy you leave could deeply influence people who have not yet been born. They will be reaching their friends for Christ in a culture we cannot imagine, which will have questions we cannot begin to name.

What will keep you relevant in such fast changing times? The one thing that never changes: the gospel. The Oak Hill Foundation degree is designed to lay the basis for that lifetime in practical gospel ministry, and it can be built on with further study, now and in the years to come.



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