Facilitators

Dr Heather Tan (SHV) & Dr Alan Niven (Stirling) will facilitate each day of the program and also the group reflection. They will monitor, negotiate and grade all assessment tasks for those who are enrolled for credit. Presenters are pastoral care or chaplaincy specialists from each tradition.

Reading and relevant research for each presenter and topic will be given to students in advance and also during each session. Dates have been chosen to fit with festivals, special days and cultural calendars for each faith:

- Hindu - Monday 3rd August 2015
- Muslim - Tuesday August 18th 2015
- Jewish - Thursday 3rd September
- Sikh - Friday 18th September
- Buddhist - Wednesday 7th October
- Orthodox Christian - Monday 19th October

University of Divinity Fees per unit (2015)
Audit (attend but no assessment) $550.00
Undergraduate $1320.00
Postgraduate $2052.00

Financial Assistance
Australian citizens are eligible for FEE-HELP, the Australian Government’s student loan scheme, during the Graduate Certificate in Supervision

Since 1910, the Colleges of what was formerly called the Melbourne College of Divinity have offered theological and pastoral resources to Church and Society. This unit of study is jointly offered by Stirling Theological College (one of the ELEVEN University Colleges) and Spiritual Health Victoria and can be used towards a number of University degrees and awards.

“When you enrol at one College
... it’s YOUR University.”

Pastoral Studies at Stirling
Dr Alan Niven—Pastoral Studies Co-ordinator and MA (Pastoral Care):
Telephone: (03) 9790 1000
Email: aniven@stirling.edu.au
Address: 44-60 Jacksons Rd, Mulgrave 3170

Call for details or to enrol:

John Williamson—Coursework Coordinator:
Telephone: (03) 9790 1000
Email: registrar@stirling.edu.au
Website: http://stirling.edu.au

Stirling Theological College (formerly the Churches of Christ Theological College) offers a place where students form professional, ecumenical and stimulating cohorts and can choose from our pastoral units to accompany foundational units in other disciplines or take similar units at some of the other 11 Colleges of the University.
Multi-faith Perspectives in Spiritual Care

On behalf of the University of Divinity, Spiritual Health Victoria, Stirling Theological College and the Victorian Multicultural Commission (VMC) have developed a project focused on inter-faith perspectives in spiritual care.

This program will offer practitioners of spiritual care in healthcare and community contexts an opportunity to experience 6 faith traditions through a day's immersion.

Within each community and culture the focus will lie on spiritual responses from within each tradition to end-of-life care, crisis and transition, grief and loss.

SHV’s current Capabilities Framework sets out a requirement that practitioners will have integrative studies in world religions as part of their education and formation for their work in spiritual care. There are few courses offered in tertiary programs of study which meet this requirement, and this is why we have set this project in place.

Partner faith organisations:

The Buddhist Council of Victoria (BCV), the Hindu Community Council of Victoria (HCCV), the Islamic Council of Victoria (ICV), the Jewish Community Council of Victoria (JCCV), the Orthodox Christian Chaplaincy Council, and the Sikh Interfaith Council (SIC). Each will arrange a day-long program, hosted by communities within their tradition.

This experience is intended to give participants the opportunity to explore culturally, spiritually and, with a practice-orientation, an experience of their life and culture that supports and assists:

- in appreciating the spiritual resources the tradition offers its members when they are unwell, in transition or crisis, or facing loss through bereavement and:
  - in identifying indicators for referral for specific support when required and pathways for such referral.
  - Participants will be asked to write a paper after each of these days, reflecting on their learning and how they have integrated this into their practice.
  - In addition to the prescribed assignments there will be a plenary session at the end of the project, for integration and review, with a panel representing all 6 traditions.

Entry requirements

This unit of study is designed for those with at least 3 years of experience in pastoral care, hospital chaplaincy, prison ministry, school chaplaincy, spiritual direction, aged care etc. The unit can become part of a University of Divinity award.

The Master of Arts (Pastoral Care) can provide a valuable pathway for this unit.

NOTE: An interview with references will precede admission to the unit.

Building an MA(PC)

12 units required

Four foundational units — one unit of Theology, two in Biblical Studies and one in Pastoral Care. Previous theological study may be recognised. Four to seven further units in Pastoral Care (or other disciplines — minimum four in pastoral care). You can include one or two units of Clinical Pastoral Education or Supervised Ministry Practice.

A Capstone Unit in Pastoral Care (6,000 word integrative paper) will focus on a project or topic in consultation with a supervisor. A 12,000 word Research Paper (2 units) may qualify students for admission to Higher Degrees by Research.

Units from the Graduate Certificate in Ageing from Catholic Theological College or the Stirling/Sentir Graduate Certificate in Supervision can also become a part of your MA.

If you have no prior degree but lots of relevant experience and acknowledged skills, talk to any College Registrar about a Graduate Certificate.