



Alphacrucis University College

COURSE HANDBOOK

BACHELOR OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE

School of Health and Human Sciences

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COURSE HANDBOOK



Alphacrucis University College

BACHELOR OF APPLIED SOCIAL SCIENCE

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Overview

Bachelor of Applied Social Science (BAS)	Program Director	Catrina Henderson
	AQF Level	AQF Level 7 (Undergraduate)
	Qualification	Bachelor Degree
	Subjects	24
	Languages of Instruction	English
	CRICOS Code	093683J
	ASCED Code	090513
	Accreditation	Self-accredited (<i>last reviewed in 2025</i>)
	Course Length	3 years full-time; up to 10 years part-time
	Entry Requirements	https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/bachelor-applied-social-science/

COURSE OVERVIEW

There are genuine needs within our society and a desire within many of us to help others. The Bachelor of Applied Social Science course trains and equips you to help others in a professional and ethical way. Social Science is a very practical field and our course is based on giving people the skills and practical experience required to work effectively in a range of applied social science contexts.

This diverse course is designed to equip students with a broad understanding of theory and evidence-based practice of applied social sciences. With an emphasis on skill development and practical experience, students will learn to work professionally to help others.

The Bachelor of Applied Social Science is designed to provide an advanced body of knowledge and professional application for graduates in a variety of applied social science contexts. Graduates may find employment in churches, not-for-profit and mission-focused organisations, community service-orientated positions, government agencies, counselling services and positions that require research skills and critical thinking. Additionally, graduates may progress further along the pathway toward higher levels of study.

Course Structure

Note: Contact the Student Support Team for access to previous course versions.

This course structure applies from Semester 2, 2025 onwards.

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

- 15 compulsory core subjects
- 7 subjects from the specialisation areas
- 2 elective subjects

To qualify for award of the degree of Bachelor of Applied Social Science a candidate shall complete at least 240 credit points, including satisfactory completion of the core subjects noted below.

Content of the course of study		Credit points
Core Subjects	ACA101 Faith and Purpose SSC100 Foundations in Social Research, Writing, and Methods SSC110 Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing SSC113 Interpersonal Communication Skills SSC210 Human Lifespan Development SSC111 Case Management SSC221 Foundations of Professional Practice SSC215 Group and Community Work SSC216 Mental Health SSC211 Principles of Psychology SSC212 Grief and Loss SSC213 Social Identity in Australia SSC222 Ethical and Professional Issues SSC318 Working with Trauma SSC337 Working with Addictions	15 x 10
Electives	2 subjects (20 credit points) taken from an accredited Level 7 course of study offered by AC.	2 x 10
Specialisation	COUNSELLING (required for Counselling accreditation) SSC217 Applied Counselling Theories SSC331 Solution Focused Therapy and Positive Psychology OR another therapy unit SSC336 Cognitive Behaviour Theories and Therapies SSC340 Engaging Families SSC338 Working with Relationships OR SSC339 Working with Children and Young People SSC310 Field Placement – Counselling (final semester) SSC319 Professional Accountability (final semester)	7 x 10

YOUTH STUDIES	<p>SSC340 Engaging Families SSC343 Youth Work SSC345 Youth Issues SSC339 Working with Children and Young People SSC331 Solution Focused Therapy and Positive Psychology SSC312 Field Placement - Youth Studies (final semester) SSC319 Professional Accountability (final semester)</p> <p>CHAPLAINCY/PASTORAL CARE</p> <p>MIN101 Introduction to Pastoral Ministry MIN102 Christian Spirituality SSC331 Solution Focused Therapy and Positive Psychology SSC334 Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care SSC335 Culturally and Socially Diverse Practice SSC313 Field Placement - Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care (final semester) SSC319 Professional Accountability (final semester)</p> <p>SOCIAL SCIENCE (Non-placement)</p> <p>30 credit points SSC100 level or above 20 credit points SSC200 level or above 20 credit points SSC300 level or above</p>
Other Protocols of the course	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommended specialisations are advisory not compulsory. They do not appear in the award title. Must have the valid Police Check and State/Territory Working with Children Check before they undertake Fieldwork Placement subjects.
Pre-requisites for specific subjects	<p>Pre-requisites are noted on the website. Students must have completed the pre-requisite prior to enrolment.</p>

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Recommended Course Progression

Based on a full-time study mode.

Students can track course progression using the template at the end of this handbook.

CORE		SPECIALISATION/ELECTIVE	
First Year			
Semester 1		Semester 2	
SSC100	Foundations in Social Research, Writing, and Methods	SSC221	Foundations of Professional Practice
SSC110	Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing	SSC111	Case Management
SSC113	Interpersonal Communication Skills	SSC210	Human Lifespan Development
ACA101	Faith & Purpose	SSC216	Mental Health
Second Year			
Semester 3		Semester 4	
SSC211	Principles of Psychology	SSC212	Grief and Loss
SSC215	Group and Community Work	SSC213	Social Identity in Australia
	Specialisation subject or elective		Specialisation subject or elective
	Specialisation subject or elective		Specialisation subject or elective
Third Year			
Semester 5		Semester 6	
SSC318	Working with Trauma		Specialisation subject or elective
SSC222	Ethical and Professional Issues		Specialisation subject or elective
SSC337	Working with Addictions	SSC300 (313,310,312)	Field Placement
	Specialisation subject or elective	SSC319	Professional Accountability

Course Learning Outcomes

Graduates will be able to demonstrate:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Broad and coherent knowledge of the principles and concepts relevant to the field of human welfare studies and services;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Depth of understanding of the underlying principles and concepts in one or more social science disciplines, such as youth work, aged care, trauma-informed care, or other human welfare services, as a basis for independent lifelong learning;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Understanding of depth of knowledge required to maintain currency in the chosen social science profession;
Graduates will be able to demonstrate the ability to:
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Synthesise and critically evaluate new developments in research and scholarship in applied social science contexts;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify, analyse and generate creative solutions to unpredictable and complex problems;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Identify and exercise appropriate social science methodologies and evidence-based practices necessary to offer informed-care services in the chosen discipline;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Communicate effectively coherent ideas and proposed solutions to peers and general audiences in diverse contexts
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Discuss and analyse contemporaneous topics, issues and challenges impacting on social science professionals, from a Christian worldview, to develop appropriate solutions;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Apply the initiative and well-developed judgment to develop evidence-based solutions to complex social science concerns;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Work independently, responsibly and with the level of professionalism expected to undertake skilled work in social science occupations;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Comply with professional codes of ethics and regulations which impact on the ability to work in human welfare service contexts and keep abreast of changes in the legislation and practice applicable to the specific professional field;
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Make socially and ethically responsible decisions when engaging with others to make a positive contribution to society.



Work Integrated Learning - Placement

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.

Students taking the following specialisations: counselling, youth studies, chaplaincy/pastoral care will complete both a professional placement subject (100 placement hours) and a professional accountability subject.

For further information please refer to the SHHS Student Moodle Page.



Other Course Information

For other course information, such as information on Professional Accreditation and available intakes, visit the course web page:

<https://www.ac.edu.au/awards/bachelor-applied-social-science/>

Useful Links

AC WEBSITE



<https://www.ac.edu.au/>

ACADEMIC CALENDAR



<https://www.ac.edu.au/key-dates/>

HOW TO ENROL



Please see the [Timetable](#) for available subjects and contact [Student Support Team](#) for tailored academic advice before completing the enrolment form.

AC POLICIES



<https://ww1.ac.edu.au/ppm/>

LEARNING MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Enrolled students will have access to AC's [LMS](#)

FEES



<https://www.ac.edu.au/fees-financing/>

STUDENT FORMS



<https://www.ac.edu.au/forms/>

GRADUATE ATTRIBUTES



<https://ww1.ac.edu.au/ppm/graduate-attributes-policy/>



Student Support

The Student Support team are available if you need assistance.

Email the team via: studentsupport@ac.edu.au or book a phone or video call via: [Bookings](#)

Phone: (02) 8893 9005

<https://www.ac.edu.au/student-services/>

For disability support please contact dso@ac.edu.au

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Course Progression Tracking Template

Bachelor of Applied Social Science

Student:	
Student ID number:	
Year of commencement:	

Bachelor of Applied Social Science requirements:

- 15 compulsory core subjects
- 2 elective subjects
- 7 subjects from the specialisation areas

For detailed subject information please refer to the [website](#)

Subject Code	Pre-Requisite	Subject Name	Completed
SSC100	<i>Nil</i>	Foundations in Social Research, Writing, and Methods	
SSC110	<i>Nil</i>	Psychology of Emotion and Wellbeing	
SSC113	<i>Nil</i>	Interpersonal Communication Skills	
ACA101	<i>Nil</i>	Faith & Purpose	
SSC210	<i>SSC110</i>	Human Lifespan Development	
SSC111	<i>SSC110</i>	Case Management	
SSC221	<i>SSC113</i>	Foundations of Professional Practice	
SSC215	<i>SSC113</i>	Group and Community Work	
SSC216	<i>SSC110</i>	Mental Health	
SSC211	<i>SSC110</i>	Principles of Psychology	
SSC212	<i>SSC113</i>	Grief and Loss	
SSC213	<i>SSC110</i>	Social Identity in Australia	
SSC222	<i>SSC221</i>	Ethical and Professional Issues	
SSC337	<i>SSC113</i>	Working with Addictions	
SSC318	<i>SSC221</i>	Working with Trauma	

Electives – Any 2 Subjects

Code	Subject Name	Completed
	<i>Subject can taken from an accredited Level 7 course of study offered by AC. (eg, SSC, BIB, MIN)</i>	
	<i>Subject can taken from an accredited Level 7 course of study offered by AC. (eg, SSC, BIB, MIN)</i>	

Specialisations

Counselling (required for counselling accreditation) – 7 Subjects

Code	Pre-Requisite	Subject Name	Completed
SSC217	SSC113	Applied Counselling Theories	
SSC331	SSC221	Solution Focused Therapy and Positive Psychology <i>or another therapy subject such as SSC332 Narrative Therapy</i>	
SSC336	SSC221	Cognitive Behaviour Theories and Therapies	
SSC340	SSC221	Engaging Families	
SSC338 or SSC339	SSC221	Working with Relationships <i>OR</i> Working with Children and Young People	
SSC319	SSC222	Professional Accountability (must co-enrol with SSC310, final semester only)	
SSC310	SSC222	Field Placement – Counselling (must co-enrol with SSC319, final semester only)	

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Youth Studies – 7 Subjects

Code	Pre-Requisite	Subject Name	Completed
SSC340	SSC221	Engaging Families	
SSC343	SSC110	Youth Work	
SSC345	SSC110	Youth Issues	
SSC339	SSC221	Working with Children & Young People	
SSC331	SSC221	Solution Focused Therapy & Positive Psychology	
SSC319	SSC222	Professional Accountability (must co-enrol with SSC312, final semester only)	
SSC312	SSC222	Field Practice – Youth Studies (must co-enrol with SSC319)	

Chaplaincy/Pastoral Care – 7 Subjects

Code	Pre-Requisite	Subject Name	Completed
MIN101	<i>Nil</i>	Introduction to Pastoral Ministry	
MIN102	<i>Nil</i>	Christian Spirituality	
SSC335	SSC113	Culturally & Socially Diverse Practice	
SSC334	SSC110	Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care	
SSC331	SSC221	Solution Focused Therapy & Positive Psychology	
SSC319	SSC222	Professional Accountability (must co-enrol with SSC313, final semester only)	
SSC313	SSC222	Field Practice – Chaplaincy & Pastoral Care (must co-enrol with SSC319)	

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Social Science – Non-Placement – 7 Elective Subjects

[Subject Search](#)

Code	Subject Name	Notes	Credit Points
Elective	<i>SSC 100 level or above</i>		
Elective	<i>SSC 100 level or above</i>		
Elective	<i>SSC 100 level or above</i>		
Elective	<i>SSC 200 level or above</i>		
Elective	<i>SSC 200 level or above</i>		
Elective	<i>SSC 300 level</i>		
Elective	<i>SSC 300 level</i>		