



YOUR VISION. OUR MISSION

TSEPONG

EMPOWERMENT
CENTRE



Pastoral Professional

SAQA ID: 1101571, NQF Level 5, Credits 237



Occupation:

Pastoral Professional



SAQA Qualification ID

1101571



NQF Level

5



Total Credits

237



Duration

24-30 months

Purpose of the qualification

The purpose of this qualification is to prepare a learner to operate as a Christian Religious Professional.

Target Audience

Individuals who feel a calling to pastoral work or ministry and wish to be formally trained as a pastor or minister of religion.

Entry Requirements

National Senior Certificate (Matric)

Course Information

The Christian Religious Professional is a dedicated leader who guides and executes the core functions of ministry within a faith community. This role encompasses facilitating spiritual growth (formation), cultivating strong fellowship and mutual support, equipping members for a Christian lifestyle, and providing strategic leadership to ensure the faith community's obedience to its divine calling, well-being, and long-term sustainability. Crucially, they develop and lead missional practices that actively share the Christian message and serve the holistic well-being of the wider community.

Outcomes

A qualified professional will be able to:

- Lead the faith community in spiritual formation that deepens their relationship with God.
- Establish and nurture powerful fellowship and mutual care systems within the community.
- Facilitate holistic well-being by equipping people with proactive and reactive (coping) life skills and grounding them in a Christian value system.
- Provide visionary leadership that drives the community toward its calling, sustainability, and overall health.
- Develop and implement missional practices to share the good news of Jesus Christ and serve the entire community's holistic needs.



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Course Information Continued

- Religious ministers in Southern Africa primarily come from two backgrounds: the more formal/historic churches (approx. 9,000 ministers) and the much larger less formal group (including Pentecostal, Charismatic, and African Initiated Churches, with an estimated 186,000 ministers).
- Currently, formal Christian ministry training is almost exclusively confined to Higher Education qualifications offered by tertiary institutions. This new Occupational Certificate fills a vital societal need by providing a formally recognized, relevant training pathway for the vast number of spiritual leaders—especially those in the less formal group—who have previously lacked access to proper training opportunities.
- This certificate will be accessible to both existing spiritual leaders who need formal training and newcomers to the profession who seek a practical, occupation-focused route instead of tertiary education.

International Comparability

In most countries, the qualifications for religious ministry are housed within the Higher Education (HE) Band. Additionally, individual church denominations typically maintain seminaries to train and qualify their ministers for ordination.

A significant gap exists in formally registered, non-denominational vocational training. Australia appears to be the primary exception, where the Australian Skills Quality Authority (ASQA) has registered a vocational qualification: the 10433NAT Certificate IV in Christian Ministry and Theology (owned by the Health and Community Services Workforce Council Inc.).

For comparison, the United Kingdom offers qualifications like the CertHE in Philosophy, Religion and Ethics (accredited by Ofqual and offered by the University of London), which is an HE qualification, not a dedicated vocational ministry certificate.

It should also be noted that many evangelism and outreach organizations provide ministry courses; however, these programs generally do not hold formal national accreditation.



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Curriculum

1. Knowledge Modules (123 Credits)

Module Nr.	Title/Description	NQF Level	Credits
KM-01	Essentials of Religious Practitioners	4	6
KM-02	The Bible and Interpretation	5	30
KM-03	Basic Christian Concepts	5	8
KM-04	Christian Ethics	5	8
KM-05	Church History and Christian Traditions	4	6
KM-06	Building Faith Communities	5	8
KM-07	Principles of Preaching	4	8
KM-08	Conducting Services	4	6
KM-09	Spiritual Formation and Life Skills	5	10
KM-10	Pastoral Counselling Principles	6	12
KM-11	Missional Calling of the Church	5	7
KM-12	Church Leadership and Ministry Management	5	8
KM-13	Church Administration and Financial Management	4	6



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2. Practical Skill Modules (PM)

Module Nr.	Title/Description	NQF Level	Credits
PM-01	Prepare Sermons for Faith Community Needs	5	5
PM-02	Conduct Worship Services	5	5
PM-03	Facilitate Spiritual Growth	6	4
PM-04	Nurture Fellowship in Faith Communities	5	4
PM-05	Provide Care During Crises	6	6
PM-06	Promote Christian Values and Virtues	5	4
PM-07	Develop Life Skills Through Teaching and Mentoring	6	5
PM-08	Provide Visionary Spiritual Leadership	5	4
PM-09	Build Congregational Leadership Capacity	5	4
PM-10	Facilitate Effective Ministries	4	4
PM-11	Promote Stewardship in Faith Communities	4	4
PM-12	Mobilize Faith Communities for Outreach	5	4
PM-13	Plan and Execute Outreach Programs	5	3
PM-14	Initiate Interventions for Community Needs	5	3
PM-15	Participate in Inter-Faith Development	5	3
PM-16	Plan and Manage Media Use	5	2



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Curriculum Continued

This qualification also requires the following Work Experience Modules:

(50 Credits)

Module Nr.	Title/Description	NQF Level	Credits
WM-01	Conduct Worship Services to Strengthen Faith	5	15
WM-02	Plan Teachings and Ministry Activities	5	15
WM-03	Develop Life Skills and Nurture Christian Values	5	10
WM-04	Engage Leaders in Visionary and Operational Practices	5	5
WM-05	Execute Outreach or Community Development Projects	5	5

For more information

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