

BCS Degree Level Help File

This help file will take you through the following steps:

1. Relating the three levels
2. Purchase and download your course products
3. Take the Quiz
4. Download and Upload your essay
5. What is a cohort?
6. Join a cohort
7. Visit the Wiki

Relating the three levels

You may wonder why we write of three levels here, when you find four levels on the website. That is because the “entry” level, namely *School of Ministry* is a different course text and courses done at that level cannot be upgraded.

The three levels related here, namely *Diploma*, *Advanced Diploma* and *Degree level* all use the same course text and the multimedia is developed for that course material. Further, cohorts can include students from all three levels in the same class.

Item	Diploma	Advanced Diploma	BCS
Read course text	•	•	•
Quiz	•	•	•
Essay (2500-3500 words)		•	•
Forum research & assignments			•
# Courses per certificate	10	10	7 + SS + DLP

The table is self explanatory, showing the growing number of items required for the higher levels. SS stands for Senior Seminar and DLP for Directed Learning Project, which the degree level students do while the other two levels do their last three courses.

Purchase your course products

A different help file will take you step by step through the process of how to purchase a course (Help/How to Purchase a Product/Course). When you do so, you will need to purchase three products:

1. Your course fee
2. Your cohort fee
3. Your St. Stephen's University fee

Do the online Quiz

To pass the Degree level you are required to complete the Quiz.

Another help file will take you step by step through the process of doing the multiple-choice assignment online (the Quiz). Grading is instant and automated, once to decide to finally submit, but you can save your answers and return whenever you wish.

Download and upload your essay

Degree students have to complete both the Quiz and the essay. The process of downloading and uploading your essay is found in another help file (Help/How to Upload and Download an Assignment).

What is a cohort?

Degree students are required to work in a cohort. Here are the essential features of a cohort.

1. A group of students that stay in the same class for the duration of an entire certificate.
2. Who have teacher-to-student and student-to-student contact throughout the certificate.
3. Who engage in live, online webinars and forum interaction. If they are part of a church based cohort face-to-face classes take the place of the webinars.
4. Who pay an extra fee for the services of the cohort leader, but who then acquire access to the multimedia suite through the forum. They do not have to purchase the multimedia products.
5. A cohort has to be led by someone with at least a Masters qualification in theology who has been licensed by both Saint Stephens University and VBI to run a cohort.

Join a cohort

Obviously local church based cohorts operate on site. Online webinar based cohorts are determined by time zones. To become a degree student you will need to make direct contact with cohort leaders in the time zones. Email the following cohort leaders to receive a more detailed information pack and begin your dialogue with them. They will also be able to inform you of other cohort leaders who may be in your area and introduce you to them. Each cohort leader, in consultation with their students, determines the schedule (deadlines and duration) of each certificate, and the subject choice within each certificate.

- ∞ North America: doug@vineyardbi.org
- ∞ Europe and Africa: quinton@vineyardbi.org

Visit the Wiki

If you intend being a degree student you will need to know a lot more detail than this help file provides. All the information you need is found on our Wiki (the tab on the menu right next to the help menu). Here are some of the details you should read about:

1. How to write an essay.
2. How to use the “My VBI” window once you enter a course. Both your calendar and forum are accessed from this space.
3. How to participate in the forum. Degree students do extra reading and research and reflect this in forum assignments which their fellow students respond to, and vice-versa.
4. Online cohort students should familiarize themselves with the broadband and VOIP¹ requirements and learn how the webinars function.
5. The VBI Bachelor of Christian Studies degree is a 120 credit degree, broken down into 4 thirty credit certificates. Recognition of prior learning for 30 credits is required in non-theological subjects (Arts, Humanities, Science, etc). You will need to understand how the curriculum is structured and how these requirements are met.
6. Each certificate builds through levels of complexity, from course work, to the Senior Seminar, to the Directed Learning Project (mini-thesis). You will need to understand how this works.

¹ Voice Over Internet Protocol, e.g. skype