



VOSE 2020

EXCEPTIONAL LEARNING EXPERIENCES
MOVING AHEAD

Our heritage

For over 50 years Vose has been providing exceptional learning experiences for the Christian community. Largely focused on training those who are preparing for Christian ministry, in recent years it has broadened its brief to include programmes for those in fields heavily impacted by the mission of the church – education, counselling, aid and development, youth work and the ever growing not for profit sector.

Founded by and under the spiritual oversight of the Baptist Churches of Western Australia, Vose trains people from a wide range of denominational backgrounds. Baptist and evangelical in its heritage, it continues to operate with a generous orthodoxy able to equip people for relevant and biblically informed ministry in the 21st century.

Our graduates serve around the world. Many are pastors of thriving churches. Go to a chaplaincy conference and you'll keep on bumping into Vose graduates. Others are working in cross cultural mission, church planting, forwarding the work of a wide range of not for profit and aid organisations, and teaching in Christian schools. Some return to their previous place of employment to be effective witnesses for Jesus in the marketplace, and all are equipped to help further the mission of the church in the world.

While located in Perth, Western Australia, and having trained and shaped many of the spiritual leaders of this city, the recent introduction of degree level on-line education has seen us widen the pool of those who access our training.

We are grateful for our heritage, and as we look towards 2020, we have documented where we believe God is calling us to place our energy and emphasis as we continue to provide exceptional learning experiences.

Our mission

Vose exists to provide world class higher education from a Christian perspective. We see the education we provide as being in the service of the Church and its mission, and realise that for so lofty a mission, the educational experiences we provide must never be less than exceptional.

We recognise that there are many challenges and accusations that face the Christian faith. It is sometimes accused of being intellectually vacuous, morally suspect and experientially empty. At Vose we help to dispel each of these myths, equipping our students to think and live rigorously, biblically and compassionately – while always being spiritually alert and responsive to the challenges God provides.

Our ethos

Vose's ethos is shaped by its key values. At Vose we value:

- 1) Our evangelical heritage, with its commitment to Scripture and conversion, and hold to a theological position that reflects a Christ focused and engaged orthodoxy.
- 2) Educational excellence, by which we mean education and training which is:
 - relevant
 - historically informed
 - student focused
 - respectful of people, positions and institutions
 - simultaneously stretching and nurturing
 - culturally sensitive
 - accessible
 - informed by the best research and practice.
- 3) Global and local missional relevance, equipping believers to fulfil both the Great Commandment and the Great Commission.
- 4) The Church, in her many different expressions, and always works to support the mission and ministry of the Church.
- 5) Transparency and integrity, and are committed to acting with honesty and kindness.

These values work their way out in an ethos that is hospitable, warm, welcoming, and stretching, a place where excellence is valued and becomes possible because the whole team is on your side, wanting you to be your best self... helping you to become your best self. Dig a little deeper and you will find this ethos flows from a deep experience of the grace of God - which is celebrated again and again and again.

Our immediate past

Like all educational institutions we have had our ups and downs. In more recent years there have been more ups than down, and so we have been able to make steady progress which has been reflected in numerical growth, a broadening of the programs we offer, and significant improvement in our on-site facilities, even while we have made it possible for students to gain most of our qualifications on-line.

We have birthed a leadership centre (Vose Leadership), a centre to focus on mission (Vose Mission) and another to champion our programme of research (Vose Research). Vose College has been formed to forge our path in the provision of training in fields other than theology, with qualifications now offered in Leadership and Management, as well as in Education. In the near future counselling will be added to the suite. We now offer a Korean language based Diploma in Ministry – helping us to add to our previous English only offerings.

Each addition has been guided by our mission to provide world class higher education from a Christian perspective.

Our theme for 2020

As we look to 2020, our theme is ‘Moving Ahead’.

We are delighted by the gains from the past. We have experienced over a decade of change and growth – now we believe we are called to capitalise on these gains and to move ahead – and to do so boldly. We are confident in the direction we have set, the relationships we have forged, the programmes we have developed, the centres we have birthed and the facilities we have expanded.

Our strategy

We have identified key areas in which we plan to move ahead. They fall under 6 broad headings where we plan to pay particular attention...

Key Strategic Area 1: **The Formation of our Students**

Vose has always been committed to the formation of its students. Historically this has been in a face to face learning environment. Increasingly we will be forming our students in a multimodal learning environment. At times our contact with students will be face to face, at other times it will be on-line. Sometimes it will be in weekly lectures. At other times it will be during intensive blocks of training. While usually we will be located on our Bentley campus, we will often supplement what we are doing on-line in local learning hubs. We will engage with the best research to ensure that our program of formation helps to lead the way in a rapidly changing field.

We champion the concept of holistic formation, and are committed to fostering orthodoxy, orthopraxy and orthopathy – knowing that our task requires us to interact with the way our community thinks, acts and feels.

Key Strategic Area 2: **Equipping our staff to provide exceptional learning experiences in a multi modal learning environment**

Vose is proud of its staff, and considers them its greatest asset.

Some of our faculty have a world class reputation and each is recognised as being an expert in their field. They are engaged in research, publication and the presentation of their scholarship. As the educational environment changes, we commit ourselves to ensuring that our staff are equipped to not only rise to the new challenges, but to be amongst the leaders in the field. We will ensure that staff are professionally developed and fully equipped as 21st century educators.

Our administrative staff are also key to the fulfilment of our mission. Their hospitality, professional competence and efficiency help to ensure that students have the best experience possible. We commit ourselves to ensuring that all our administrative and support staff are helped to provide a service that liberates our teaching staff and students to be the best that they can be.

All our staff are part of the Vose team, and we will create an environment where each staff member is valued and sees the importance of the role they play in helping Vose provide world class higher education from a Christian perspective.

Key Strategic Area 3:

Strengthening and developing partnerships for a 21st century learning environment

21st century environments are never insular, but synergise with other players in the field.

Vose works closely with a number of key partners to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students. Some of our partners are local, others are based in other parts of the country and have international links.

Vose Mission is a partnership between Vose and 16 key mission agencies. The close working relationship ensures that those training with us for cross cultural mission receive training that is informed and shaped by those at the cutting edge of contemporary mission.

The broader teaching and leadership program is also enhanced by our working together with significant partners - some very closely and with formal memorandums of understanding, others more loosely, but always for the greater good.

Vose works closely with The Baptist Union of Western Australia, Churches of Christ (WA), Scripture Union, Christian Schools Australia, the Carey Group, SCEA, Morling College, the Australian College of Theology (and its 16 member colleges), Riverview Church, the Salvation Army, Youthcare, BaptistCare, the Bible Society, the Australian and New Zealand Association of Theological Schools and more beside.

Although we have already forged many key partnerships, we will continue to expand our base, recognising that we are better when we work together.

Key Strategic Area 4:

Optimising our location and site – moving to the next stage of our site development

In recent years we have refreshed most of our site, redesigning parts (The Thomas Bailey Centre) and adding the John Olley Centre. We will continue to optimise and develop our site, recognising the strategic value of our location alongside Curtin University.

More specifically, we plan to enhance onsite recreational facilities for students, explore the possibility of building additional student housing, and develop an appropriate centre for counselling and the training of our counselling students.

Key Strategic Area 5:

Developing the range of programs we offer

We will continue to offer the full range of degrees of the Australian College of Theology. We are excited that they are exploring expanding the range of their offerings, and will partner together with them in this. In addition, we will continue to partner with Morling College to ensure that their degrees in Education and Counselling can be offered in Western Australia. We will also explore the possibility of adding degrees in business, not for profit leadership and aid and development.

Key Strategic Area 6:

Providing ongoing service to our graduates

We are proud of our graduates, and the service they provide around the world. Our leadership centre already helps provide mentoring and professional development opportunities both for our alumni and for the broader community. We will more intentionally work at lines of overlap between our leadership centre and our training programmes so that a seamless transition takes place after graduation, and both current and former students are actively assisted to reach their potential.

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