



Vision Christian College

Resource Centre



An Overview

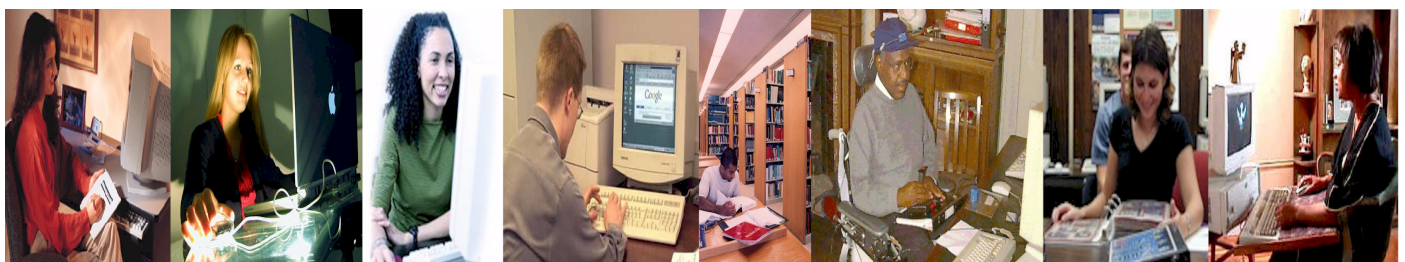


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Introduction

Why a Resource Centre?

Of course, since you have this manual in your possession, you have already decided to begin an Affiliate Resource Centre.

The Biblical mandate for all 5 fold ministry is to equip the saints for the work of service, to mature the Body of Christ until we as the Body of Christ are flowing and functioning together as a unified force of change, as salt and light.

The question of our time is not should we train our leaders, for certainly we must. The real question is how do we properly train the saints of God for effective service, while maintaining our key leaders for the future building of the church both local and universal? What model do we follow to ensure that the purposes of God are fulfilled, that reap the harvest in which we are laboring, and that the Great Commission will be expanded to the nations as Christ commanded? These questions are filled with possible solutions, ranging from the old-line Pentecostal response of “who needs education any way, we have the anointing” to the fundamentalist or liberal theologian’s stance, who often have a form of religion, lacking in the power to transform a community, let alone a nation.

From our search of scripture, and in keeping with our philosophy, it appears that the model with the greatest hope of effectiveness is the decentralized educational system, designed to educate and train God’s people within the local community, or the church of the locality.

Church of the Locality

What is a ‘church of the locality’? Is this the same as the local church? To best answer this important question, it is necessary to seek the wisdom of the master church builder, the Apostle Paul. When Paul wrote letters to the church, whether Corinth or Ephesus, he sent them to the city where the church was established, not to an individual church within the city. Each city had elders, generally raised up and commissioned for service by an Apostle and/or Prophet. The Elders were responsible for the flock under their care. Buildings were hard to come by, so they generally met in homes or in rented facilities (School of Tyrannus). They were called upon to take leadership in the whole city, and were to be in mutual, loving submission to one another. Of course, Paul had problems with his leadership teams in the first century church, if that were not so he would have never had to send a letter! Though an ideal, it is the philosophy of Vision to assist the Body of Christ in the city to develop a unified purpose, to train leaders for the 21st century.

Decentralized Education

From the time of Christ through the Acts of the Holy Spirit through the Apostles, training in the Word of God, Christian Character, and for ministry in the gifts and power of God occurred on the move. Jesus taught in the Synagogue, and in the Temple. So did the Apostles. However, the vast majority of the education and training in righteousness and the principles of the Kingdom of God were conducted under a tree, in a rented facility, on a hillside, or as they were walking along the way. In other words, they took the educational program and process to the people. This is the focus of Vision. We have determined, as lead by the Holy Spirit, to

take the educational programs to the church in the community. Rather than focus on the building of an edifice with intended glory to a man, our hope is to be stewards of an educational system that invests in God's people wherever they may be. The faculty and staff of Vision Christian College, from Australia to Zimbabwe, from the United States to India, have committed themselves to provide the highest quality educational system, which is readily available for implementation wherever the hungry and thirsty reside. We have focused on gathering, writing and producing the highest quality academic material. Our books, syllabi, study guides and teaching helps are written from a conservative theological position with a strong faith and Charismatic emphasis.

Our Purpose

The purpose of our educational ministry is to assist the church in the locality, sometimes through a local church and sometimes through a group of churches coming together with a vision, in fulfilling God's call to educate, teach and train Christians from the humblest lay person the most eminent of leaders.

We believe it is only through a fully trained laity that, the world will be won to Christ. Only when the church of the 21st century, God's instrument for the establishment and expansion of the Kingdom Of God, embraces its calling to make disciples of the nations, will the purposes of the Lord be completed. All of Christ' leaders must begin to see as the Lord does, and begin to believe and act with courage until "*the earth is filled with the Knowledge of the Glory of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea*" (Hab. 2:14).

Vocational Emphasis

Vision Christian College maintains a strong commitment to vocational ministry training within the local context. While Vision's curriculum is deep-rooted in a Pentecostal-Charismatic heritage, it remains open-ended and adaptable to any immediate cultural context. Vision encourages students studying in Resource Centres to apply their educational experience to their church environment, denomination, and faith community.

Students who have completed a Diploma of Theology With Vision Christian College or the Advanced Diploma with Vision International University are eligible to enter the Bachelor's Degree Completion program with Vision International University.

The Vision Program

Within the rest of this manual contains the necessary information and support to establish a Resource Centre which will effectively train your church people and touch your community for the building of the Body of Christ in your community. As with every system, ours is not perfect, and is in a state of constant improvement. Much of our improvement comes through the feedback we receive from our ever expanding the Vision International Education Network. Please know that your feedback is received seriously, and acted upon judiciously. Yet, there is a method to our madness, and our procedures have been developed and work for the vast majority of the churches we partner with. This manual and the system are created for the disciplining of the nations, and the blessing of the church of the locality.

Resource Centre Overview

What is a Resource Centre?

A Resource Centre is an individual, organization or congregation that conducts ministry training programs in cooperation with the Vision Christian College – essentially a church based Bible College. These programs attract awards from Vision Colleges.

So why a local church based college? We believe that there is no better place to equip people than in the very place where they serve Christ. Our conviction is that there is no-one better to train church members than the successful pastors who are daily engaged in fulfilling the principles of the gospel.

We treat the entire local church environment as part of our campus activity: its worship; its witness; its fellowship; its teaching; its ministry - are all reckoned to be part of the training process of equipping men and women to serve Christ.

Our function is simply to add a theological, academic, component that few churches can provide by themselves while the practical component of training up a ministry can be left in the hands of the local pastor and the ministry team.

Our students do not have to leave their homes or their employment; they remain in their churches; they train “on the job” they are taught by instructors, their own pastors, who are fully active in ministry; they are immediately able to relate what they learn to the spiritual battles that surge around them every day; they can immediately apply the healing balm of Christ to the hurting people they meet.

“How then do you maintain academic quality?” someone may ask. Simply by the provision of very high quality text-books, carefully structured lecture notes, and appropriate assignments. This combination enables us to control the theological and scholarly excellence of our syllabus, while local pastors and teachers keep the program spiritually alive, dynamic, and relevant to the needs of the local church.

So our structure may be different - that is, non-traditional - but the curriculum is first-class.

Students who complete the full undergraduate program will have studied at least 40 fine text-books, and completed at least 40 assignments, in the process of which they will acquire a fine reference library which will assist their ministry into the future. And of course, throughout that period, the students will have been active participants in the life and ministry of their churches.

The local ministry team select the Resource Centre leadership, the subjects to be taught in their program, when classes are held and who will teach the courses. Vision is always available for guidance and advice.

Resource Centre students are considered Distance Education students of Vision Christian College and as such hold dual enrolments in the local Resource Centre and with Vision.

Our Five Values of Ministry Training:

Vision affirms the following values for vocational ministry training, adapted from Dr. Malcolm Webber, Dean of Vision's graduate Leadership program:

Christ

All teaching will be centred in Christ — seeking to bring students into a Christ like life and thinking.

Community

Training will be carried out, and proven in the context of community life (relationships). The student's ministerial vocation will be expressed and worked out in the daily life of his or her various communities: family, church community, society, and the broader community of the world.

Character

Building strong character will be the goal of all training, not just an accumulation of knowledge. The indwelling life of Christ expressed and worked out, in community will develop godly character.

Calling

Will be observed, developed, and proven within the immediate context of the community.

Competency

Competency in a particular area of life and ministry is developed and nurtured in the environment of a loving community. Competency is demonstrated by practical, hands-on training in the immediate context of the local church and community.

The Vision Curriculum***What is taught?***

Over the years we have developed a strong bible-based curriculum that is:

- Conservative in Doctrine
- Charismatic in Practice
- Evangelistic in Emphasis
- Loving in Fellowship
- Restorative in Purpose
- Bold in Faith

Study options

Recognised Program

Although not accredited by any formal accrediting body, Vision Christian College's Recognised Awards are very highly sought after with over 150,000 students around the world (through our affiliated Colleges and network) in more than 130 countries. Over than 8,000 churches, denominations, mission groups, and Para-church groups use Vision for training and development purposes, for many of those groups Vision is a preferred option for ministry training.

The program is built around a Credit Points system of study rather than a fixed curriculum allowing for a greater of flexibility in study options to the Resource Centre while ensuring an appropriate balance of study through our Study Streams.

To earn an award (Certificate to Diploma of Theology) a student must successfully earn 30 credit points for each award level. Typically this is achieved by the successful completion of 10 subjects from our curriculum. The Resource Centre selects subjects from our 8 "Study Steams" to earn credit points towards their awards.

More details of this program are found under Academic Information later in this book and from our publication "Introducing Vision Christian College"

Accredited Program

Vision International College is accredited through VETAB and offers Certificate III to Advance Diploma, Graduate Certificate and Graduate Diploma of Theology and Christian ministry.

This program is more structured than the recognised program and is a mix of Theology and practical ministry training. This program, although more costly, attracts Austudy and can run side by side with the recognised program.

Awards are earned by the successful completion of the required program subjects. For more details see our publication Introducing Vision International College.

USA Degree Programs

Students who earn the Diploma of Theology from Vision Christian College or the Advanced Diploma from Vision International College are eligible to enter the Bachelor's Completion program.

Approved Resource Centre's may offer the degree programs of Vision International University USA. Such Resource Centre's must be able to support the students with adequate faculty, staff, and administration.

Responsibilities

Vision Provides:

- The structure and curriculum for the educational program.
- Text books, study guide, syllabus, course outline, examinations and other materials for each subject.
- All Academic Transcripts, Awards.
- A path to higher levels of Study.
- An academic advisor to assist you in developing your program upon request.

Resource Centre Certificates

Each Resource Centre receives an Affiliate Certificate to be displayed in the Church Office or teaching area.

Student Records

Vision keeps and maintains all student records; this not only releases the Resource Centre of the need to keep its own records but also and allows students to transfer between programs, colleges and study options without penalty according to their study need.

Academic Awards

We do the marking and track student records and only Vision College can issue awards. This centralized system allows for a recognized uniformity of standards, so a Vision Student on one country is the same as a Vision Student in any other country and all earn the same awards at the same level.

Academic Advisor

While every Resource Centre is treated as an independent college reflecting the needs of the local ministry Vision Staff are always ready to provide input and advice on request. We do not impose a system but rather stand to complement the local ministry

The Resource Centre Provides:

Teaching team

The local ministry team approves the teaching and ministry team, those who share your vision.

The curriculum provided by Vision Christian College is self-contained and designed for self-study, making the material ideal for Resource Centres to facilitate students using traditional classroom or seminar methods.

Classroom facilities

Classes can be held at any time, at your discretion. Courses can be facilitated within a semester, or through a monthly seminar.

Student Records

While Resource Centre students are considered distance education students of Vision Christian College as such we maintain complete records of the student's details and results. However we encourage each Resource Centre to maintain their own records for their own purposes. Copies of the student records from the Vision office are available to the Resource Centre

Resource Centre Staff

Qualifications for facilitators and other positions in the school are determined by the local Resource Centre.

The number of staff, their titles and role will be determined by both the size of the college and the local resource Centre itself.

Provide Documentation to Vision

The Resource Centre must forward to Vision all documentation relating to a student and their studies such as Application Forms, Change of name/address, assessments, subject orders, advance standing applications.

As much as it is possible, communications on behalf of the students or student body are conducted between the Resource Centre and Vision Christian College. While students may inquire of the College they are encouraged to do so through their Resource Centre.

Student Body

There are three kinds of students in a Resource Centre

1. Full Student receives their text book and assignments and their records are maintained in the Student Data base and they will earn credits towards and award. Typically such a student will complete a subject each month and earn an award each year.
2. Casual Student receives their text book and assignments and their records are maintained in the Student Data base and they will earn credits towards there award. They may complete such subjects as they wish to. It will take much longer to complete an award but recognition is given to their studies. They must complete at least 1 subject each 2 years to maintain their enrolment.
3. Audit Student receives only a text book. No credits are granted as they do not complete assessments. Audit students do not need to complete a Vision Enrolment form.

How Start a Resource Centre

Becoming a Resource Centre

Ensure that you are comfortable with the philosophy of Vision Christian College and that you are able to work in mutual co-operation with Vision.

Make sure that you have the minimum number of students to enrol into your Resource Centre.

Complete the application form and send it with the required start-up fees to Vision Christian College.

Student Enrolment

All students, full-time or casual, in a Resource Centre must complete an official Vision Christian College Enrolment Form.

Send the enrolment forms and enrolment fees to Vision Christian College for entry into the data base along with any applications and evidences to support a student claim for advanced standing.

Ordering Subjects

The Resource Centre selects subjects to meet its own criteria from the range of subjects from Vision Christian College. Vision does have a model curriculum if required.

Using the Order Forms provided the Resource Centre should order their subject 2 weeks prior to the commencement of teaching. Care should be taken to ensure that correct names and correct order form is used for Recognised or Accredited students. The student names will be checked against our database to confirm enrolment.

The two week lead time will ensure that the material will be available to the Resource Centre in time and allows enough sufficient time to resolve problems should they arise

It is the responsibility of the Resource Centre to confirm with Vision Christian College that the order has been received.

Receiving the subjects

Check that the title and quantity of the subject is as ordered and that the books are in good condition.

Advise Vision immediately of any discrepancy or problems with the materials received.

Issue the books and assessment material along with any promotional material to the student body as soon as possible. Fees should be paid before study material is given to the student. A “no money no book” policy is strongly recommended.

The Resource Center has ordered the material and is responsible for payment, not the student. The student is responsible to the Resource Centre not Vision Christian College.

Teach the material

As a resource Centre you decide how you will teach the material. Each subject should take one month to complete. Options typically used are once per week lecture style, once per month weekend seminar or a mentoring process. Vision leaves the detail of teaching method to the local resource Centre.

Submitting Assessments

The Resource Centre should photocopy the assessment sheets and send them to Vision Christian College for assessment in bulk with a Cover Sheet which is used to confirm the number of assessments sent and the student names. If results are lost in the mail then the resource centre will have a copy to re-submit.

Alternatively the results can be faxed to 02 98291420 or they can be emailed to exams@visionchristiancollege.com.au Assessment Cover Sheet

It is the responsibility of the Resource Centre to confirm that assessments have been received by Vision Christian College.

Late students will need to make arrangements with the Resource Centre regarding submission.

Upon receipt the assessments will be registered and marked as soon as possible, details are entered into the data base and the students' record is updated. Vision Christian College treats assessments as a high priority.

Awards

Upon the successful completion of 30 credit points by the student. Vision Christian College will advise the Resource Centre of those students who are ready to graduate and will need to re-enroll to continue their studies to the next level.

An award and the academic transcript is prepared for the students and will be issued in co-operation with the Resource Centre preferences.

Course Completion and Credit Accumulation

As students work through the course, they accumulate credit points leading to the award levels (Certificate in Biblical Studies, Associate in Biblical Studies, Diploma of Ministry and Diploma of Theology). They will graduate with the appropriate award as they complete it.

This process of credit accumulation allows a student to graduate in an award on the basis of Credit Points rather than subjects completed thus releasing the student and the Resource Centre of a satisfying a fixed Curriculum while at the same time ensuring a high standard of biblical, academic, theological balance that produces a sound minister of the word of God, well equipped for the calling before them. See the section on Credit points for more information.

Graduation.

In January of each year Vision conducts a Graduation service and all grandaunts of Vision are encouraged to attend.

Graduation Ceremonies are a wonderful opportunity for each Affiliate Resource Centre to have an opportunity to show the community the progress of the Resource Centre from year to year. The Graduation celebration is a public expression of unity and fosters a powerful respect for one another and for Vision Christian College.

As a distance education program this is not always possible and each Resource Centre is encouraged to organize a graduation service if they are unable to attend the Vision Graduation service. If invited we will be delighted and honoured to attend your graduation service.

Each Resource Centre Must:

Send a Resource Centre Graduation List to Vision Christian College at least 8 weeks before the scheduled graduation this allows time to deal with any anomalies that may have occurred.

Ensure that the Vision Christian College has original transcripts on file from students who have transfer credits from another college.

Four weeks prior to the issuing of certificates, Vision Christian College will issue a final list of all graduates. Students who are not on the list cannot graduate.

All outstanding fees must be paid before Vision Christian College will permit graduation

Suggested Procedures for Each Term

Leadership Meeting

At the beginning of each academic year, the leadership should meet to outline the courses for the coming year.

Advertising

Design a flyer, letter and/or brochure to describe the Resource Centre and courses that will be facilitated. If you wish to use the Vision logo you must submit your flyer for approval prior to printing and distribution.

Some marketing tools include:

- Direct mail
- Word of mouth
- Church bulletins
- Local newspapers

In addition to printed materials, it is very effective to “show case” the school on a Sunday morning at a local church. A representative from the Resource Centre may be able to speak briefly to the congregation and be available after service to answer questions and provide a sign-up sheet.

Course Cycles

Most Resource Centre’s offer ten subjects per year in a monthly seminar format or a weekly lecture format. Courses are typically offered in a rotating cycle whereby a student may start studies at any point in the cycle.

Because the program is credit point based the program is very flexible. Students do not have to meet the requirements of a set curriculum, instead they earn credit points. Each subject is worth 3 credits each award level requires 30 credits.

Resource Centre's have found this process to be effective, manageable and flexible rolling admission cycle.

Resource Centre Staff

The most important asset of any school is its staff. These are the people who influence the students through example and instruction. The staff of a Resource Centre should be individuals who are competent in their areas of instruction and responsible leaders of good character.

While it is preferable that lecturers and staff hold some form of formal qualifications to undertake their task Vision Christian College places no formal demand on the qualifications. Many Resource Centre's are too small to impose such demands and could disqualify some from operating. We take the view that only the local ministry understands its mandate from God and it is our heart to stand alongside and support the local ministry as long as we are in mutual agreement. All decisions regarding the qualification of lecturers are decided by the local ministry team and resources centre staff.

We offer the following as a guide but leave the decisions of the appointment of staff to the Resource Centre

Typical positions may be:

- Director, is usually the Senior minister of the church or ministry team
- Principal, often the Director but in larger churches or ministries is responsible for the oversight of the college
- Registrar, the primary Vision Christian College contact person and is usually responsible for ordering study materials, correspondence, finances, etc.
- Teacher(s), typically their responsibility is to teach the material to the students. We encourage teachers to present the salient points to the students rather than to teach the book, after all the student has the book.

Spiritual Qualifications of All Staff

1 Timothy 3 and Titus 1

- Have a good reputation within and without
- Be mature in character, growing in the grace and knowledge of our Lord

James 3:1-2

- Be willing to assume the moral responsibility of teaching God's people
- Be willing to guard yourself against speaking "improper" things and causing others to stumble

For teachers:

Ephesians 4:11-12

- Recognize God's call on your life as a teacher
- Teach in such a manner as to equip the people of God for the work of service in His kingdom
- Be recognized by the local ministry team as a capable teacher for the student body.

Advanced Stranding options

How do you earn Credit Points

Subject: 3 credits. Each subject with Vision Christian College has the same value; by successfully completing a subject a student earns 3 credit points. Most students earn their award by successfully completing any 10 subjects.

Optional Additional Essay Credit Points

Essay: 1 credit point per subject may be earned by writing an optional essay. This option is additional to the regular assessment and cannot be used as a replacement of the assessment.

Student Study Guide Credit Points

Study Guide: 2 additional credit points per subject may be earned by completing an optional Student Study Guide. This option is additional to the regular assessment and cannot be used as a replacement of the assessment.

Teaching Credits

A Lecturer who is also a student may claim teaching credits provided that they teach the full subject, teaching credits can be claimed at a rate of 2 credits per subject taught on top of the study credits.

Academic Credits

If you have completed or are undertaking formal studies and you would like to transfer to *Vision Internet Bible College* then request the Academic Transfer application form. Note: Due to the variety of standards between institutions we cannot guarantee that all awards will be accepted for the same value however we treat all such requests with equal integrity.

Life (Ministry Skills) Experience:

This is for Recognised Students only. We recognise the value of ministry experience as a valid means of prior learning and contributing towards legitimate credits towards your Award.

It is difficult in this space to present a formula for Life Experience Credits as the mix of experience, expertise and ministry of individuals vary greatly, however in general you are eligible to apply if:

1. If you have been involved in any form of full-time recognised ministry for a period two years. or
2. If you have served the local church in a legitimate office or offices continually for five years; or
3. If or if you can show a combination of both then you are eligible to apply for Life Experience Credits.

You will be required to submit a CV of your experience. Once assessed you will be advised of the number of Life Skills credits that may be offered to you. The Life Experience Credits may

then be purchased and applied to any part of your course in lieu of studies, however they can only be applied once and they cannot be claimed with *Vision Internet Bible College* if they have been claimed in another college see [Fees and Charges](#)

To apply for Life Experience simply request the application form and we will send it to you, complete and return to us for assessment.

Recognised Prior Learning (RPL)

This is for accredited students only and is required when a student can provide evidence that they are competent in a unit of study even though they do not have formal academic qualifications. It is similar to Life (Ministry) Skills but is more specific in nature.

Financial Information

The Discount

We realise that running a Resource Centre will incur costs to you and some savings to us. Because we appreciate you and we believe in seeding into ministry to encourage and bless you we discount our fees to you. We do not dictate the fees you charge your students however we strongly urge you to charge your students at least the full subject fees.

Fees are discounted to the Resource Centre by \$20.00 per recognised student and \$50.00 for an accredited student. The discount is reflected in the invoice which is to be paid in full within 30 days to maintain the discount.

Resource Centre Fees

Resource Centre fees are prescribed in the Affiliate Resource Centre Covenant Agreement Packet.

Payment of Fees.

The Resource Centre is responsible for collecting fees from the students. Vision Christian College will not receive fees directly from the students of a Resource Centre

The Resource Centre is responsible for the payment of all invoices from Vision Christian College to the Resource Centre

The Resource Centre is responsible for the payment of all of its own bills and charges. Vision Christian College is not responsible for any costs incurred by the Resource Centre.