



Bachelor's Degree in Languages: Biblical Greek and Hebrew

Program Presentation

The Bachelor's Degree in Languages: Biblical Greek and Hebrew at Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) constitutes a comprehensive educational proposal that unites the Christian tradition of studying Sacred Scripture (*sacra scriptura*) with mastery of its original languages: Hebrew (Old Testament) and Koine Greek (New Testament). In the biblical and ecclesial tradition, the Biblical Languages are the primary vehicle of Revelation. Direct access to the original texts is the source of theology, spirituality, and preaching, enabling a profound understanding of the mysteries of faith and avoiding the limitations of translations.

This vocation to literal and spiritual truth is updated in the contemporary context through exegesis, hermeneutics, and linguistics—academic and professional disciplines oriented toward the rigorous study of the Scriptures in their original matrix (Hebrew, Aramaic, and Greek), their textual criticism, and their interpretation. The Bachelor's Degree in Languages: Biblical Greek and Hebrew at UNICA offers an interdisciplinary education that combines linguistics, theology, history, and archaeology, preparing professionals capable of:

- Understanding the grammar, syntax, and semantics of biblical texts in Hebrew and Greek.
- Engaging in exegetical research and teaching of Sacred Scripture with scientific rigor.
- Supporting theological and pastoral formation processes, ensuring a faithful interpretation of the divine message.
- Leading translation projects, biblical commentary, and dissemination of the Word of God.

Thanks to its virtual and blended modality, the program is accessible to students from different contexts, who will be able to carry out translation projects and teaching internships in their places of residence or associated institutions. Likewise, its bilingual offer (Spanish and English) opens doors to serve multicultural communities and international environments. With this bachelor's degree, UNICA reaffirms its commitment to the mission of the Church and society: to form leaders who are witnesses of faith in the Word, in the spirit of the Gospel, and in the Social Doctrine of the Church.



Justification

Mastery of the biblical languages—Hebrew and Koine Greek—is fundamentally relevant to the being and mission of the Church, directly impacting the quality of formation, preaching, and pastoral action.

1. **Formation of Priests:** It is essential for profound homiletics and theological teaching. A priest trained in the original languages can access the exegetical richness of the texts, ensuring richer, faithful, and contextualized preaching that nourishes the sacramental life of the people of God.
2. **Formation of Committed Laity:** The laity, called to evangelize culture, need tools for a serious and critical reading of the Bible. This degree equips them as multiplying agents in catechesis, teaching, and apologetics, granting them the authority of direct knowledge for faith-reason dialogue.
3. **Pastoral Agents and Leaders from Different Traditions:** The study of Biblical Greek and Hebrew facilitates ecumenical and interreligious dialogue. By sharing the original sources (the Tanakh or Old Testament with Judaism, the Septuagint and the New Testament with Christian denominations), a solid bridge of understanding and unity in the Word is built. The Church strengthens its mission by forming pastoral leaders capable of contextualizing and applying Scripture faithfully. In summary, this program responds to the need to return to the sources (*ad fontes*), ensuring that the People of God ground their life and mission in a pure and complete understanding of Revelation.

Institutional Identity

Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA) is an ecclesiastical institution of Christian-Catholic inspiration, committed to integral formation in the light of the Gospel and the living tradition of the Church. It integrates faith and reason, fosters spiritual life, and trains students for intellectual, social, and pastoral service in contemporary society.

Mission

To train leaders in biblical languages with academic, ethical, pastoral, and spiritual competencies, prepared to research, teach, and translate Sacred Scripture, promoting the knowledge of the Word of God and integral human development, in fidelity to the evangelizing mission of the Church.



Vision

To be recognized as a Catholic university of reference in the formation of biblical scholars, exegetes, and ecclesial leaders, with an impact on theological research, the teaching of Scripture, and ecumenical dialogue in America and the world.

Values

Truth, Charity, Excellence, Holiness, Unity, and Service.

Program Technical Sheet

Field	Description
Program Name	Bachelor's Degree in Languages: Biblical Greek and Hebrew
Academic Level	Undergraduate / Bachelor
Duration	8 semesters (curricular structure organized by semesters)
Total Credits	160 credits (average of 20 credits per semester)
Modality	Virtual and blended (synchronous/asynchronous classes, intensive exegesis seminars, and teaching/research practices)
Language Offer	Spanish / English / Bilingual (according to student selection)
Location	State of Texas, USA
Degree Awarded	Bachelor in Languages: Biblical Greek and Hebrew — Universidad Católica Americana (UNICA)

Admission Requirements (Profile and Documentation)

- High School Diploma or recognized equivalent (GED).
- High school transcript / academic record.
- Personal essay (letter of motivation and vocational discernment toward biblical and linguistic studies).
- Admission interview (academic and vocational/linguistic).
- One pastoral or academic recommendation.
- Demonstration of language proficiency according to the chosen modality (see language section).
- For international students: compliance with current immigration and/or visa requirements.
- The university may include additional requirements according to institutional and accreditation regulations.

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Educational

Purpose

To train professionals with linguistic mastery of Koine Greek and Biblical Hebrew, capable of applying exegetical and hermeneutical methods in the research, translation, and teaching of Sacred Scripture.

Learning Outcomes

Upon graduation, the Bachelor in Languages: Biblical Greek and Hebrew will be able to:

- Translate and analyze morphologically and syntactically original texts of the Old and New Testaments.
- Apply the historical-critical method and Catholic exegesis to interpret biblical passages.
- Integrate theological, historical, and Social Doctrine of the Church foundations into professional practice.
- Design and lead biblical formation programs and teaching of original languages.
- Promote ecumenical and interreligious dialogue based on knowledge of shared sources.
- Develop research skills in textual criticism and Semitic/Hellenistic philology.
- Use digital and technological resources for biblical research (databases, exegetical software).
- Research and evaluate the influence of biblical languages on theology and Christian spirituality.

Competencies

- **Generic:** Critical thinking, oral and written communication, academic leadership, teamwork, intercultural sensitivity, digital competencies.
- **Specific:** Exegesis (Hebrew and Greek), comparative grammar, textual criticism, biblical hermeneutics, fundamental theology, Social Doctrine of the Church, teaching of ancient languages.

Language Offer and Language Requirements

The program is offered in three modalities: Spanish, English, and Bilingual. Language certification requirements are equivalent to those of other programs (TOEFL/IELTS, DELE, or institutional exams).



Curriculum Plan by Semester (8 semesters — 160 credits)

Semester	Code	Course	Credits	Summary	Prerequisites
1	BBL-101	Introduction to Linguistics and Biblical Philology	6	Basics of linguistics, the canon, and the history of original languages.	None
	BBL-102	Methodology of Catholic Exegesis	6	Principles of interpretation (literal, spiritual, and full sense).	None
	BBL-103	Biblical Hebrew I: Phonetics and Morphology	4	Alphabet, pronunciation, basic grammar, and nouns.	None
	BBL-104	Geography, History, and Biblical Archaeology	4	Physical, cultural, and historical context of the biblical world.	None
Total			20		
2	BBL-201	Koine Greek I: Phonetics and Morphology	6	Alphabet, pronunciation, basic grammar, and verbs.	None
	BBL-202	Introduction to Theology and Revelation	6	Faith as a response to Revelation and the role of Tradition.	BBL-102
	BBL-203	Biblical Hebrew II: Syntax and Basic Verbs	4	Simple verb conjugation and syntactic analysis of Hebrew.	BBL-103
	BBL-204	Literature of the Ancient Near East	4	Study of cultural contexts (Mesopotamia, Egypt) of the OT.	BBL-104
Total			20		
3	BBL-301	Koine Greek II: Syntax and Middle/Passive Verbs	6	Advanced syntactic analysis and study of middle and passive voices.	BBL-201
	BBL-302	Exegesis of the Pentateuch (in Hebrew)	6	Reading and exegetical commentary on Genesis and Exodus.	BBL-203
	BBL-303	Textual Criticism of the New Testament	4	Greek manuscripts, textual variants, and critical editions.	BBL-201
	BBL-304	Philosophy and Biblical Anthropology	4	The truth about humanity in the light of Scripture and reason.	None
Total			20		
4	BBL-401	Biblical Hebrew III: Verbal Systems (Nifal, Piel)	6	Advanced study of complex verbal forms.	BBL-203
	BBL-402	Exegesis of the Synoptic Gospels (in Greek)	6	Reading and commentary on Matthew, Mark, and Luke.	BBL-301
	BBL-403	Biblical Aramaic (Basic)	4	Introduction to the Aramaic of Daniel and Ezra.	BBL-301
	BBL-404	General Elective I	4	Elective course in humanities or social sciences.	According to elective
Total			20		
5	BBL-501	Biblical Hebrew IV: Verbal Systems (Hifil, Hitpacl)	6	Mastery of causative and reflexive verbal forms.	BBL-401
	BBL-502	Exegesis of Saint Paul (in Greek)	6	Reading and commentary on the Letter to the Romans or Corinthians.	BBL-402
	BBL-503	History of the Vulgate and Biblical Translations	4	Latin as a vehicle for the Bible and the art of translation.	BBL-402
	BBL-504	Exegetical Practicum I (supervised)	4	Practical application of exegesis to a biblical text.	BBL-303
Total			20		

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6	BBL-601	Methodology of Biblical and Theological Research	6	Design and execution of research in biblical sciences.	BBL-204
	BBL-602	Social Doctrine of the Church (and Biblical Justice)	6	In-depth study of social justice concepts in the OT and NT.	BBL-202
	BBL-603	Exegesis of the Prophetic Books (in Hebrew)	4	Reading and commentary on a major or minor prophet.	BBL-501
	BBL-604	Biblical Teaching Practicum II (intensive)	4	Intensive teaching experience of Sacred Scripture.	BBL-504
Total			20		
7	BBL-701	Exegesis of Johannine Writings (in Greek)	6	Reading and commentary on the Gospel of John or Revelation.	BBL-502
	BBL-702	Ecumenism, Dialogue, and the Common Bible	6	Study of Scripture as the foundation of interdenominational dialogue.	BBL-502
	BBL-703	Leadership and Ministry of the Word	4	Competencies for preaching, homilies, and biblical formation.	BBL-502
	BBL-704	Advanced Elective on a Specific Biblical Text	4	Monographic course on a freely chosen biblical book.	According to elective
Total			20		
8	BBL-801	Integrative Seminar and Exegetical Thesis	10	Preparation and defense of an original exegetical research project.	BBL-601
	BBL-802	Professional Ethics and the Responsibility of the Biblical Scholar	6	Ethical principles in translation, research, and dissemination of the Word.	BBL-304
	BBL-803	Applied Hermeneutics and Contextualization	4	From the original text to pastoral and cultural application.	BBL-602
Total			20		

Methodology and Evaluation

- Mixed methodology: synchronous/asynchronous classes, continuous translation workshops, exegesis seminars on original texts, intensive seminars, and field practices in training institutions or biblical centers.
- Continuous evaluation: translation exams (without dictionary), morphology and syntax exercises, exegetical reports, teaching projects, original research, and defense of the exegetical thesis.
- In the bilingual modality, social and linguistic competencies in both languages will be evaluated.

Institutional Observations and Regulatory Compliance

The university will adapt admission documents and requirements in accordance with the laws of the State of Texas and the conditions of authorization and accreditation in force for religious institutions and programs in virtual or blended modalities.