



## MELBOURNE COLLEGE OF DIVINITY

### GOVERNANCE

## REGULATION 32 – BACHELOR OF MINISTRY

This Regulation was approved by MCD Council on 1 December 2010.

### 32.1 Admission and Enrolment

- 32.1.1 A person may apply to the Academic Board [the Board] to enrol as a candidate for the Bachelor of Ministry if he or she is qualified to be admitted to a University or other tertiary institution in Australia approved from time to time by the Board.
- 32.1.2 A person who is not qualified to enrol as a candidate in accordance with Clause 32.1.1 may be permitted to enrol as a provisional candidate under conditions determined by the Board.
- 32.1.3 Every candidate for the Bachelor of Ministry must be enrolled during the period of candidature at a Recognised Teaching Institution [RTI], and must comply with the requirements of that institution and such other requirements relating to the admission and enrolment of students as the Regulations prescribe. Notwithstanding where they are formally enrolled, candidates may study units offered at other RTIs.
- 32.1.4 If a candidate seeks to undertake units in the Bachelor of Ministry using flexible delivery arrangements, the Board may only give permission for an enrolment on this basis if it is satisfied that the requirements of the degree can be completed through these arrangements, and that the candidate will have appropriate learning opportunities: access to appropriate learning resources, peer interaction and faculty supervision.
- 32.1.5 Notwithstanding any other provision in this Regulation, the Board may require an applicant to demonstrate fitness for admission by carrying out such work and sitting for such examinations as the Board may determine.
- 32.1.6 The Bachelor of Ministry must be completed in not less than three and not more than nine years, unless the Board determines otherwise.
- 32.1.7 The Board may discontinue the candidature of any person whom it deems not to have made satisfactory progress.

## **32.2 Course Structures**

- 32.2.1 The basic structure of the course of study leading to the Bachelor of Ministry consists of a series of units, grouped by discipline and level as determined by the Board.
- 32.2.2 The successful completion of a standard unit that has been approved by the Board as to content, teaching methods, learning outcomes, assessment and bibliography counts as 15 credit points towards the degree.
- 32.2.3 The disciplines available must be grouped by the Board within four Fields of study, namely: Field A, Humanities; Field B, Biblical Studies; Field C, Christian Thought and History; Field D, Theology: Mission and Ministry.
- 32.2.4 The Board must determine the number and type of unit sequences required to complete the requirements of a course of study.
- 32.2.5 Units must be allocated by the Board within disciplines to level 1, 2 or 3, where units at a lower level may be prerequisites for units at higher levels.

## **32.3 Course of study**

- 32.3.1 Every course of study for the Bachelor of Ministry will consist of 360 credit points and include sequences approved by the Board, as described in the General Determinations for the Bachelor of Ministry.
- 32.3.2 Determinations of the Board made pursuant to this regulation must be communicated appropriately by the Registrar.
- 32.3.3 Unless the Board determines otherwise in specific cases, no candidate for the degree may enrol in more than 60 points in any one semester.

## **32.4 Credit and transfer credit for the Bachelor of Ministry**

- 32.4.1 No more than 240 credit points may be given for studies taken at other institutions towards fulfilling the requirements of the Bachelor of Ministry.
- 32.4.2 A candidate who holds a degree from an Australian university, or a qualification deemed by the Board to be equivalent, may be given up to 60 credit points, normally in Field A.
- 32.4.3 In addition to 32.4.2, the Board may grant up to 60 credit points in the appropriate Field for units undertaken successfully in a degree other than ministry or theology, which the Board regards as equivalent in content and standard to Bachelor of Ministry studies.
- 32.4.4 The Board may grant up to 240 credit points in the appropriate Fields for studies of equivalent content and standard passed towards an incomplete degree in ministry or theology.
- 32.4.5 The Board may grant other credit points in accordance with the Schedule of Credits determined by the Board.

## **32.5 Award of degree**

When a candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Bachelor of Ministry, the Board may recommend to Council that the award be made to the candidate. A candidate to whom such an award has been made is entitled to use the letters 'BMin' as a suffix to their name.

**BACHELOR OF MINISTRY  
GENERAL DETERMINATIONS MADE BY THE ACADEMIC BOARD  
RELATED TO REGULATION 32**

These Determinations were approved by the Academic Board on 19 November 2010.

**32.1.1 Other Tertiary Institutions approved by the Board**

Adelaide College of Divinity  
Australian Catholic University  
Australian College of Theology  
Avondale College  
Charles Sturt University  
Christian Heritage College  
Harvest Bible College  
Harvest West Bible College  
Moore Theological College  
Murdoch University  
Otago University  
Sydney College of Divinity  
Tabor Adelaide  
Tabor Victoria  
University of Auckland  
University of Notre Dame Australia  
Wesley Institute

**32.1.2 Provisional Admission**

Persons who are not qualified to enrol as candidates in accordance with Clause 32.1.1 of Regulation 32, but will have attained the age of twenty-one years prior to the commencement of the semester in which they would be first enrolled, may apply to the Board to enrol as provisional candidates for the Bachelor of Ministry. Such candidates will be required to complete a provisional period of study for the degree, and having successfully completed 120 credit points, will then be permitted to proceed as an ordinary candidate for the degree. Candidates who fail more than 30 credit points of units during their provisional candidature will have their candidature terminated.

**32.1.6 Reduction of Time**

Where credit has been granted, the minimum time for completion may be reduced accordingly.

**32.2.2 Non-Standard Units**

Non-standard units which, taken together, comprise a standard unit of 15 credit points or a multiple thereof in a specific discipline, may be approved by the Board.

### 32.2.3 Grouping of Disciplines with Fields

The four Fields of Study currently have the disciplines shown allocated to them:

**Field A: Humanities**

Biblical Languages  
History  
Languages ancient and modern  
Philosophy  
Religious Studies

**Field B: Biblical Studies**

Biblical Studies  
New Testament  
Old Testament

**Field C: Christian Thought and History**

Church History  
Systematic Theology

**Field D: Theology: Mission and Ministry**

Canon Law  
Ecumenical Studies  
Education Studies  
Liturgy  
Missiology  
Moral Theology  
Pastoral Theology and Ministry Studies  
Religious Education  
Spiritual Direction  
Spirituality

### 32.2.4 Approved Units

Units that have been approved by the Board within each discipline and at each level are to be found in the Handbooks and on the websites of the Recognised Teaching Institutions of the College. Sequences of units approved by the Board are also to be found there.

### 32.2.5 Types of Unit Sequences

A **major** unit sequence will consist of 90 points in the same discipline over all three levels including at least 30 points at level 3 and no more than 30 points at level 1.

A **sub-major** unit sequence will consist of 60 points in the same discipline including at least 30 points at level 2.

A **minor** unit sequence will consist of 30 points in the same discipline.

### 32.3 Course of Studies

Every course of study for the Bachelor of Ministry will consist of 360 points made up as follows:

- 32.3.1 90 points in one discipline in Field D, including at least 30 points at third level and no more than 30 points at first level (major); not including supervised ministry praxis units.
  - 32.3.2 60 points in Biblical Studies including at least 30 points at second level or higher (submajor), and including minor sequences in each of Old Testament and New Testament.
  - 32.3.3 60 points of ministry praxis units, eg. Clinical Pastoral Education, Supervised Theological Field Education or other supervised practica (submajor).
  - 32.3.4 60 points in Systematic Theology including at least 30 points at second level or higher (submajor).
  - 32.3.5 30 points in Church History (minor).
  - 32.3.6 60 points of electives from Fields A, B, C or D.
- At least 60 points of the degree must be taken at third level.
  - For students taking double degrees BTheol/BMin or MDiv/BMin, up to 180 points may be held in common between the two degrees. The minimum duration of both double degrees is 4.5 years.

### 32.4 Schedule of Credits

	Schedule / Regulation provision	Credits (maximum)
1	Completed degree	60 credit points Field A or unspecified
2	Equivalent units from completed non-theological degree	60 credit points in appropriate Field(s)
3	Units from incomplete degree in relevant Field A areas	60 credit points. Field A
4	Transfer from incomplete Bachelor's degree in theological studies	240 credit points
5	Three year Diploma of Teaching or Nursing considered equivalent to degrees	60 credit points
6	Graduate Diploma in Education	30 credit points Level 1 RelEd conditional on completing 30 credit points RelEd Level
7	MCD Advanced Diploma of Theology or Ministry or equivalent	With Credit (C) average, 180 credit points
8	MCD Diploma of Ministry or Theology or equivalent	With Credit (C) average, 120 credit points
9	Advanced Diploma of Salvation Army	30 credit points Field B 30 credit points Field C 60 credit points Field D

## **Description of Schedule of Credits**

### **Degrees**

1. A candidate with a degree may obtain up to 60 credit points. [4.6.2]
2. A candidate with a degree who has completed units considered by the Board to be equivalent to MCD BTheol units may obtain up to 60 credit points in one or more Fields. Credit in this case may be conditional upon further credit points being obtained in the relevant Field. [4.6.3]
3. A candidate with incomplete degree studies with units passed in an area considered by the Board to be relevant may obtain up to 60 credit points in Field A. [4.6.3]
4. A candidate with incomplete theological degree studies may be granted up to 240 credit points, provided the units are equivalent to MCD Bachelor of Ministry or Bachelor of Theology units. [4.6.4]
5. A candidate with a professional diploma of three years in teaching or nursing prior to degrees in those areas may be deemed to hold a degree, and so may obtain 60 credit points. [4.6.2]
6. A candidate with a Graduate Diploma of Education may obtain 30 points of credit at Level 1, conditional upon their completing 30 credit points of Religious Education at Level 2. This combination may be considered a sub-major in Religious Education (Field D).

### **Diplomas**

7. A candidate who has completed an MCD or equivalent Advanced Diploma of Theology / Ministry with a Credit average may obtain 180 credit points.
8. A candidate who has completed the MCD or equivalent Diploma of Theology / Ministry with a Credit average may obtain 120 credit points.
9. A candidate who has completed the Advanced Diploma of the Salvation Army Training College prior to the College becoming an MCD RTI may obtain a total of 120 credit points: 30 credit points Field B, 30 credit points Field C, 60 credit points Field D.

### **Other**

10. Credit will not normally be granted for theological studies completed more than ten years prior to the application for entry to the Bachelor of Ministry. The Board may grant an exception if professional or life experience in the intervening period has reinforced those studies, and if those studies directly relate to the Bachelor of Ministry.
11. If an application for credit is not successful, exemption may be granted at the discretion of the Board, such that a candidate is not required to repeat the content of prior learning but must complete other units instead. The requirement remains, however, to complete the total number of points: thus an exemption from Old Testament Introduction would still require the completion of a minor sequence (30 credit points) in Old Testament.