



MELBOURNE COLLEGE OF DIVINITY

GOVERNANCE

REGULATION 33 – DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

33.1 Admission and Enrolment

- 33.1.1 A person may apply to the Academic Board [the Board] to enrol as a candidate for the Diploma in Theology 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.
- 33.1.2 A person who is not qualified to enrol as a candidate in accordance with Clause 33.1.1 may be permitted to enrol as a probationary candidate under conditions determined by the Board.
- 33.1.3 Every candidate for the Diploma in Theology 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.
- 33.1.4 If a candidate seeks to undertake units in the Diploma in Theology 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.
- 33.1.5 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.
- 33.1.6 The Diploma in Theology must be completed in not less than one and not more than three years, unless the Board determines otherwise.
- 33.1.7 The Board may discontinue the candidature of any person whom it deems not to have made satisfactory progress.

33.2 Course Structures

- 33.2.1 The basic structure of the course of study leading to the Diploma in Theology consists of a series of units, grouped by discipline and level as determined by the Board.
- 33.2.2 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.
- 33.2.3 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.
- 33.2.4 The Board must determine the number and type of unit sequences required to complete the requirements of a course of study.

33.3 Course of study

- 33.3.1 Every course of study for the Diploma in Theology will consist of 120 credit points and include sequences approved by the Board, as described in the General Determinations for the Diploma in Theology. The Board may approve certain streams of specialisation within the Diploma in Theology.
- 33.3.2 Determinations of the Board made pursuant to this regulation must be communicated appropriately by the Registrar.
- 33.3.3 Unless the Board determines otherwise, no candidate for the degree may enrol in more than four units in any one semester.

33.4 Credit and transfer credit for the Diploma in Theology

- 33.4.1 The Board may grant up to 75 credit points in the appropriate Fields for studies of equivalent content and standard passed towards an incomplete degree in theology or ministry.
- 33.4.2 The Board may grant other credit points in accordance with the Schedule of Credits determined by the Board.
- 33.4.3 The total value of points granted as credit shall not exceed 75.

33.5 Award of degree

- 33.5.1 When a candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Diploma in Theology, the Board may recommend that the award be made to the candidate. A candidate to whom such an award has been made is entitled to use the letters 'DipTheol' as a suffix to his/her name.

REGULATION 33 – DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGY

**GENERAL DETERMINATIONS MADE BY THE ACADEMIC BOARD
RELATED TO REGULATION 33**

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

33.1.1 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

33.1.2 Probationary Admission

Persons who are not qualified to enrol as candidates in accordance with Clause 33.1.1 of Regulation 33, 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 probationary candidates for the Diploma in Theology. Such candidates will be required to complete a probationary period of study for the degree, and having successfully completed 60 credit points, will then be permitted to proceed as an ordinary candidate for the degree. Candidates who fail more than 15 credit points of units during their probationary candidature will have their candidature terminated.

33.1.6 Reduction of Time

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

33.2.2 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.

33.2.3 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

33.2.4 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 per clause 33.3 of the regulation are also to be found there.

33.3 Course of Study – Diploma in Theology

33.3.1 The Diploma in Theology (general stream) will consist of 120 points of study, comprising:

- 33.3.1.1 60 points of study made up of 30 points in each of Fields B and C; and
- 33.3.1.2 60 points of study from the undergraduate offerings in Fields A, B, C or D.

33.3.2 The Diploma in Theology (specialised stream) will consist of 120 points of study, comprising:

- 33.3.2.1 60 points of study made up of 30 points in each of Fields B and C; and
- 33.3.2.2 60 points of study within the discipline chosen for specialisation. The specialisations currently approved are:

- Counselling
- Chaplaincy
- Education
- Pastoral Ministry
- Philosophy
- Social Justice
- Youth Ministry.

33.4 Schedule of Credits

- 33.4.1 A candidate with incomplete theological degree studies may be granted up to 30 credit points, provided the units are equivalent to MCD Diploma in Ministry or Diploma in Theology units.
- 33.4.2 The Board may recognise prior learning in theology by a candidate which has been assessed at Diploma level with the proviso that such credit may be given for not more than 30 points.
- 33.4.3 Credit will not normally be granted for theological studies completed more than ten years prior to the application for entry to the Bachelor of Theology. 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 Diploma in Theology.
- 33.4.4 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 15 credit points in Old Testament.

33.5 Award of Degree

When a candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for one of the specialised streams of the Diploma in Theology, the Board may recommend that the award be made to the candidate. A candidate to whom such an award has been made is entitled to use the appropriate abbreviation from the list below as a suffix to their name:

- Diploma in Counselling: DipCouns;
- Diploma in Chaplaincy: DipChap;
- Diploma in Education: DipEd;
- Diploma in Pastoral Ministry: DipPastMin;
- Diploma in Philosophy: DipPhil;
- Diploma in Social Justice: DipSocJ; and
- Diploma in Youth Ministry: DipYouthMin.