



GOVERNANCE

REGULATION 4 – BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY AND BACHELOR OF THEOLOGY (HONOURS)

This Regulation was approved by MCD Council on 28 August 2008.

4.1 Admission and Enrolment

- 4.1.1 A person may seek the permission of the Academic Board [the Board] to enrol as a candidate for the Bachelor of 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.
- 4.1.2 A person who is not qualified to enrol as a candidate in accordance with Clause 4.1.1 above, 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 seek the permission of the Board to enrol as a provisional candidate for the Bachelor of Theology. Such candidates will be required to complete a provisional period of study for the degree, and having successfully completed 120 credit points, without having failed in units worth more than 30 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.
- 4.1.3 Every candidate for the Bachelor of Theology must be enrolled during the period of their 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.
- 4.1.4 If a candidate seeks to undertake units in the Bachelor of 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.
- 4.1.5 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.

4.2 Course Structures

- 4.2.1 The basic structure of the course of study leading to the Bachelor of Theology consists of a series of single semester length units, grouped by discipline and level as determined by the Board.
- 4.2.2 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.
- 4.2.3 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.
- 4.2.4 Units must be allocated by the Board within disciplines to level 1, 2 or 3 [or Honours level for the Honours degree], where units at a lower level may be prerequisites for units at higher levels.
- 4.2.5 The Board must specify the number and type of unit sequences required to complete the requirements of a course of study.

4.3 Course of study - general

- 4.3.1 Unless the Board determines otherwise, the Bachelor of Theology must be completed in not less than three and not more than nine years, and the Bachelor of Theology (Honours) must be completed in not less than four and not more than ten years.
- 4.3.2 The Board may discontinue the candidature of any person whom it deems to have made unsatisfactory progress.
- 4.3.3 Determinations of the Board made pursuant to this regulation must be communicated appropriately by the Registrar.
- 4.3.4 Unless the Board determines otherwise, no candidate for the degree may enrol in more than four units in any one semester.

4.4 Course of study – Bachelor of Theology

Every course of study for the Bachelor of Theology will consist of 360 credit points and include sequences approved by the Board.

4.5 Course of study – Bachelor of Theology (Honours)

Students undertaking the Bachelor of Theology (Honours) must have previously completed the requirements for the Bachelor of Theology. Every course of study for the Bachelor of Theology (Honours) must consist of 90 credit points as approved by the Board including units and an Honours Thesis.

4.6 Credit and transfer credit for the Bachelor of Theology

- 4.6.1 No more than 240 credit points may be given towards fulfilling the requirements of the degree.
- 4.6.2 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.
- 4.6.3 In addition to 4.6.2, the Board may grant up to 60 credit points in the appropriate Field for units undertaken successfully in a degree other than theology, which the Board regards as equivalent in content and standard to Bachelor of Theology studies.
- 4.6.4 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 theology.
- 4.6.5 The Board may grant other credit points in accordance with the Schedule of Credits determined by the Board.

4.7 Award of degree

- 4.7.1 When a candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Bachelor of 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 'BTheol' as a suffix to their name.
- 4.7.2 When a candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Bachelor of Theology (Honours), the Board may recommend that the award be made to the candidate, with High Distinction or Distinction Honours, with the name 'Bachelor of Theology (Honours)'. A candidate to whom such an award has been made is entitled to use the letters 'BTheol (Hons)' as a suffix to their name.
- 4.7.3 When the Bachelor of Theology degree has already been conferred upon a Bachelor of Theology (Honours) graduand, the first degree must be relinquished and the testamur returned to the MCD Registrar prior to the conferral of the Bachelor of Theology (Honours) degree and the entitlement in 4.7.1 is thereby revoked.

4.8 Temporary Regulation

- 4.8.1 Candidates enrolled in the Bachelor of Theology before 1 January 2009 may choose to complete their courses under the Regulation 4 in effect at 31 December 2008.
- 4.8.2 The version of Regulation 4 in effect at 31 December 2008 ceases to have effect after completion of examinations in 2017. If there are no eligible candidates, Council may take action to repeal the temporary regulation earlier than 2017.

MELBOURNE COLLEGE OF DIVINITY

GOVERNANCE

GENERAL DETERMINATIONS MADE BY THE ACADEMIC BOARD RELATED TO REGULATION 4

These Determinations were approved by the Academic Board on 17 June 2011.

4.1.1 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

4.2.2 Variations of Standard Units

Variations of Standard Units which, taken together, comprise a standard unit of 15 credit points or a multiple thereof in a specific discipline, are permitted, as per Regulation 4.2.2.

4.2.3 Grouping of Disciplines with Fields

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

A Humanities

Biblical Languages
History
Languages ancient and modern
Philosophy
Religious Studies

B Biblical Studies

Biblical Studies

New Testament

Old Testament

[Note: the discipline of Biblical Studies shall be constituted of any units in Field B.]

C Christian Thought and History

Church History

Systematic Theology

D Theology: Mission and Ministry

Canon Law

Ecumenical Studies

Liturgy

Missiology

Mission and Ministry

Moral Theology

Pastoral Theology and Ministry Studies

Religious Education

Spirituality

[Note: the discipline of Mission and Ministry shall be constituted of any units in Field D.]

4.2.4 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 websites of Recognised Teaching Institutions of the College. Sequences of units approved by the Board per clause 4.4 of the regulation are also to be found there.

4.2.5 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.

4.3.1 Reduction of Time.

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

4.4 Course of Study – Bachelor of Theology

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

- **Three sub-major sequences:**
 - Biblical Studies (including minor sequences in each Testament)
 - Systematic Theology, and
 - Theology: Mission and Ministry (Field D)
or One discipline in Humanities (Field A)
- **Two** of the sub-major sequences must articulate to **major sequences**
- **Two minor sequences** in
 - Church History and
 - Any one discipline
- **60 points** from one or more disciplines
- At least 60 points must be included from Theology: Mission and Ministry (Field D)
- In exceptional circumstances the Board may recommend to the Council an enrolment and programme of study which does not conform to the Regulation.

4.5 Course of study – Bachelor of Theology (Honours)

- 4.5.1 The Honours degree is taken in a particular discipline or combination of disciplines, as approved for each candidate by the Board.
- 4.5.2 If the Board is satisfied that the candidate has demonstrated capacity to achieve satisfactory honours grades, they may be admitted as a candidate for the degree of Bachelor of Theology (Honours). Normally, the requirement for entry to the Bachelor of Theology (Honours) is a Bachelor of Theology (Pass) or equivalent, with a Distinction average in the discipline chosen for Honours.
- 4.5.3 A candidate may be admitted to the degree of Bachelor of Theology (Honours) within 10 years of completing the coursework requirements for the Bachelor of Theology; such a candidate must relinquish his/her Bachelor of Theology prior to being awarded the degree of Bachelor of Theology (Honours).
- 4.5.4 Each candidate must work in consultation with a supervisor nominated by the relevant Recognised Teaching Institution and approved by the Board.
- 4.5.5 In addition to the requirements of clause 4.4 above, each candidate must successfully complete:
 - Four units at level 3, in the approved Honours discipline(s), which may include a Research Methods unit deemed appropriate by the student's coursework coordinator;
 - An Honours thesis of 12,000 words related to the approved discipline(s).
 - Any additional units specified by the Board.

4.5.6 Assessment for Honours:

- 4.5.6.1 The Honours thesis must be graded by two examiners.
- 4.5.6.2 After considering all grades obtained by an Honours candidate, the Board of Examiners will recommend to the Board the class of Honours to be awarded (if any). In making this recommendation and calculating the final result, the Honours thesis will be weighted at 60%, and the units taken for the Honours degree at 40%.
- 4.5.6.3 A candidate may be granted the degree with High Distinction Honours only if the thesis was awarded High Distinction.
- 4.5.6.4 Each Honours candidate is required to achieve a final result of at least 70%. A candidate who does not meet this requirement may be awarded the Pass degree if its requirements have been met.

4.6.5 Schedule of Credits

	Schedule / Regulation provision	Credits (maximum)
1	Completed degree	60 credit points
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 2
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 Theology ones. [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 credit points conditional upon their completing two units (30 credit points) of Religious Education at Level 2. The 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 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 Bachelor of Theology.
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.