

Regulation 24 – Master of Divinity (MDiv)

24.1 - Interpretation

In this Regulation

- 24.1.1 'The Board' means 'the Academic Board' established as a committee of the College under Regulation 2.1.
- 24.1.2 'Recognized Teaching Institution' means an institution or group of institutions recognised as an 'Recognized Teaching Institution' for the purposes of the degree of Bachelor of Theology in accordance with Regulation 3, or approved by the Board for the purposes of teaching units for the Master of Divinity.
- 24.1.3 'Foundational', 'Integrative' and 'Specialist' units mean units (normally 15 points) so designated by the Board for the purposes of foundational, integrative and specialist study respectively in the Master of Divinity degree.

24.2 - Admission and Enrolment

- 24.2.1 A person may seek the permission of the Board to enrol as a candidate for the Master of Divinity degree if he or she
 - 24.2.1.1 has obtained, or is qualified to obtain a Bachelor's degree, at a standard deemed acceptable by the Board, in the University of Melbourne or an equivalent qualification in a discipline other than theology from a university or college recognised by the Council for the purposes of the degree of Master of Divinity; or
 - 24.2.1.2 has obtained an exceptional level of relevant professional attainment which may be recognised by the Council for the purposes of the degree of Master of Divinity.
- 24.2.2 Without limiting its discretion in the matter, the Board may only grant permission to enrol if it is satisfied that the candidate will have adequate supervision and access to adequate libraries.
- 24.2.3 Each candidate must be attached to a Recognized Teaching Institution for the whole period of candidature provided that, in exceptional circumstances, the Board may permit a candidate to attend another institution for part of the period of candidature.
- 24.2.4 Where a candidate intends to undertake the Master of Divinity using flexible delivery arrangements through a Recognized Teaching Institution, including distance education, the Board must be satisfied as to the candidate's capacity to fulfil the requirements of the degree through these arrangements.
- 24.2.5 Notwithstanding any other provision in these regulations, the Board may require any applicant to demonstrate their fitness for admission by carrying out such work and sitting for such examinations as the Board determines.
- 24.2.6 Unless the Board otherwise determines, the Master of Divinity must be completed in not less than three and not more than nine years.
- 24.2.7 The Board may discontinue the candidature of any person whom it deems to have made unsatisfactory progress.

24.3 – Unit prescriptions and examination

24.3.1 The Board

24.3.1.1 may prescribe such prerequisites for units and disciplines or sections thereof as it thinks necessary;

24.3.1.2 is to settle the details of the units and disciplines of the degree for publication, and in so doing

24.3.1.3 may permit variation between Recognized Teaching Institutions in the content of units and disciplines and in the manner and order in which they are offered, and in particular may approve an application from a Recognized Teaching Institution to offer a unit or discipline over a period of more than one academic year.

24.4 - Course of Studies

24.3.2 The Board is to determine the manner in which units or disciplines of the degree are to be examined, make all necessary arrangements through the Dean for the conduct of such examinations and the reporting of the results of those examinations to the Council..

24.4.1 Each candidate is to proceed on such terms and in conformity with such procedures as are determined from time to time by the Board, in addition to those specified in this Regulation. General determinations made by the Board are to be published by the Registrar; specific determinations applying to a particular candidate are to be communicated to him or her by the Registrar.

24.4.2 The Board may grant such credit or advanced standing as it deems appropriate provided that no candidate shall receive more than 180 points credit, nor any credit in Integrative studies or for a research essay in Specialised studies.

24.4.3 Every candidate for the degree must satisfactorily complete, at a standard determined by the Board, a course of studies approved by the Board totalling 270 points:

Foundational studies

24.4.3.1 Every candidate must undertake 105 points of Foundational units at a level and in such disciplines as approved by the Board.

Integrative studies

24.4.3.2 Every candidate must undertake 60 points of Integrative units at a level and in such disciplines as approved by the Board.

Specialised studies

24.4.3.3 Every candidate must undertake 105 points of Specialist units at a level and in such disciplines as approved by the Board.

24.4.3.4 A candidate may include in their Specialised studies one 12,000-word research essay (30 points).

24.4.4 The Board may award the degree with Honours to candidates whose course includes a 12,000-word research essay in Specialised studies, which conforms to a format approved by the Board, and whose overall results are of a standard determined by the Board.

24.4.5 In exceptional circumstances the Board may recommend to the Council an enrolment and programme of study which does not conform to the Regulation.

24.5 - Awarding of Degree

- 24.5.1 Where the candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Master of Divinity, the Board may recommend to the Council that the degree be awarded, and (where applicable) at what standard of Honours (First or Second Class).
- 24.5.2 Where a candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Foundational Studies part of the degree, the Board may recommend to the Council that the Graduate Diploma in Theology be awarded.
- 24.5.3 A candidate upon whom the degree of Master of Divinity has been conferred is entitled to use the letters 'MDiv' or, where applicable, 'MDiv(Hons)' as a suffix to their name.

[rewritten 24/11/2004, revised following 2005 Act revision November 30th 2005]