



# Melbourne College of Divinity

Established by the Melbourne College of Divinity Act (Victoria) 1910.

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## Regulation 7 Master of Theology (MTheol)

### 7.1 - Interpretation

In this Regulation,

- 7.1.1 'The Board' means 'the Academic Board' established as a committee of the College under Regulation 2.1;
- 7.1.2 'Thesis' means any postgraduate essay or dissertation approved by the Board for the purposes of the Master of Theology, usually in written form but not excluding others;
- 7.1.3 'Supervisor' means the person or persons appointed by the Board to supervise a candidate.

### 7.2 - Admission and Enrolment

- 7.2.1 A person may seek the permission of the Board to enrol as a candidate for the Master of Theology if he or she
- 7.2.1.1 has obtained the degree of Bachelor of Theology with First or Second Class Honours (Upper Division) from the College, or the degree of Bachelor of Divinity with First or Second Class Honours (Upper Division) from the College, or an equivalent qualification from a university or college recognised by the College for the purposes of the Master of Theology; *or*
  - 7.2.1.2 has completed the Graduate Diploma in Theology (Special), or a postgraduate diploma in theology or in a discipline, or combination of disciplines, relevant to theology, in each case including a 12,000-word postgraduate research essay of Distinction standard; *or*
  - 7.2.1.3 has obtained two undergraduate degrees, one of which is in theology, and completed a 12,000-word postgraduate research essay at Distinction standard. This essay is not to be credited towards the Master of Theology degree; *or*
  - 7.2.1.4 has obtained the degree of Master of Ministry of the College; *or*
  - 7.2.1.5 has had published a relevant monograph, or articles in a refereed journal, deemed equivalent in standing by the Board to a degree in theology or divinity with First or Second Class (Upper Division) Honours.
- 7.2.2 Without limiting its discretion in the matter, permission may be given to enrol only where the Board is able to provide adequate supervision, and that it is satisfied that the candidate will have access to adequate libraries.
- 7.2.3 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.
- 7.2.4 Where the Supervisor appointed by the Board is not a member of staff of the Recognized Teaching Institution to which the candidate is attached, the Board must, on the recommendation of the Research Coordinator of that institution, appoint such a member of

staff as the associate Supervisor. The associate Supervisor is to report regularly to the Supervisor on the progress of the candidate's work.

- 7.2.5 Where a candidate intends to undertake the Master of Theology using flexible delivery arrangements, the Board must be satisfied as to the candidate's capacity to fulfil the requirements of the degree through these arrangements.
- 7.2.6 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.
- 7.2.7 Unless the Board concerned determines otherwise, the minimum length of candidature for the Master of Theology is 12 months full-time, and the maximum length of candidature is 18 months full-time, or 3 years part-time. One extension of 6 months may be granted to full-time candidates, and one extension of 12 months may be granted to part-time candidates Any extension of time is to be granted only on a certificate from the Supervisor that the work is progressing satisfactorily.
- 7.2.8 The Board may discontinue the candidature of any person whom it deems to have made unsatisfactory progress.

### **7.3 - Course of Studies**

- 7.3.1 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.
- 7.3.2 Every candidate for the degree including a Minor Thesis must complete, at a standard determined by the Board, the equivalent of 30 points of post-graduate study as approved by the Board, and write a Thesis of not more than 25,000 words on a topic approved by the Board, and at a standard determined by the Board.
- 7.3.3 Every candidate for the degree including a Major Thesis must write a Thesis of not more than 40,000 words on a topic approved by the Board, and at a standard determined by the Board.
- 7.3.4 Each candidate for the Master of Arts by Major Thesis must have their project assessed by an approval panel, with applications for such panels being submitted no later than 3 months following admission for full-time candidates, or 6 months following admission for part-time candidates
- 7.3.5 Each candidate for the Master of Theology by Minor Thesis must have their project assessed by an approval panel, with applications for such panels being submitted no later than 3 months after the conclusion of coursework requirements for full-time students, or 6 months after the conclusion of coursework requirements for part-time students.
- 7.3.6 Each Thesis proposal, once approved by the Board, must be submitted to the Human Research Ethics Committee of the College as established by Regulation 2.5.
- 7.3.7 The Board must approve the Supervisor(s), and any special arrangements for supervision of the Thesis.
- 7.3.8 The Thesis is to be examined in accordance with Regulation 26.

### **7.4 - Award of Degree**

7.4.1 Where the candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Master of Theology, the Board may recommend to the Council that the degree should be awarded, and at what standard of Honours.

7.4.2 A candidate upon whom the degree of Master of Theology has been conferred is entitled to use the letters 'MTheol' as a suffix to their name.

*Approved by the College June 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2004; Adjusted for 2005 Act November 30<sup>th</sup> 2005*

*Revisions approved by Council June 2009.*