L.N. 175 of 2001

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bachelor of Sacred Theology - S.Th.B. - Degree Course Regulations, 2001

IN exercise of the powers conferred upon him by sections 30 (5) and 31 (6) of the Education Act (Cap. 327), the Chancellor of the University of Malta has promulgated the following Regulations made by the Senate of the University of Malta by virtue of the powers conferred upon it by sections 31 and 35 of the said Act:

Citation and Interpretation

1. (1) These regulations may be cited as the Bachelor of Sacred Theology - S.Th.B. - Degree Course Regulations 2001.

(2) In these regulations, unless the context otherwise requires -

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Theology;

"the Course" means the course of studies leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology - S.Th.B.; and

"the Degree" means the Degree of Bachelor of Sacred Theology - S.Th.B.

Applicability

2. These regulations shall apply to courses starting in October 2001 or later.

Eligibility for the Degree

3. To be eligible for the award of the Degree, students must:

(a) be registered as regular students in terms of the Admission Regulations of the University;

(b) complete the appropriate course of studies, obtain all the required credits, pass the Synoptic Examinations and satisfy any other requirements prescribed in these regulations; and

(c) satisfy any other requirements prescribed in any other relevant statutes, regulations and bye-laws of the University.

Admission Requirements

4. (1) Applicants shall apply for the Course on the prescribed application form and within the time specified by the Office of the Registrar.

(2) Applicants may apply for admission to the Course if they satisfy the requirements for admission as regular students in terms of the Admission Regulations of the University.

Registration for Course and for Study-Units

5. (1) Students shall be required to register before the beginning of each academic year and to register for study-units before the beginning of each semester within the period stipulated by the Office of the Registrar.

(2) Students shall be awarded a grade for a study-unit only if they have registered for it on the Study-Unit Registration Form. At the beginning of each semester, students may add or drop a study-unit on the prescribed form and within the period stipulated by the Office of the Registrar.

(3) Students are expected to inform the Registrar in writing if they resign from the Course, indicating the date of the resignation.

Duration of the Course

6. (1) The Course shall extend over a period of five years of full-time studies. The Board may allow students to complete the Course in not more than six years from the date of first admission, under those conditions it may impose.

(2) In special circumstances, Senate may allow a further extension of one year, on the recommendation of the Board.

(3) The Senate, acting on the advice of the Board, may allow students, for a good and sufficient reason, to suspend their studies for a maximum period of twelve months.

Areas of Studies

7. (1) The Course shall cover the basic theological disciplines, namely, sacred scripture, patrology, church history (including palaeochristian archaeology), fundamental and dogmatic theology (including ecumenism), moral and spiritual theology, pastoral theology, liturgy and canon law, and shall be so structured as to lead progressively to a fuller understanding of the main theological themes and the inter-relationship between them.

(2) The different fields of philosophy along with relevant areas of sociology, and psychology and communication studies, Hebrew, Biblical Greek and Latin, as required for the proper study of theology, shall be taught during the first three years of the Course.

(3) The programme of theological studies proper shall start in the first year with a general introduction to the foundations of theology, a historical overview of Christian thought and practice and a basic reflection on the mystery of salvation that can serve as a background to and a focal point for the whole of theology; it shall proceed in the second and third years in close relation to the study of philosophy and it shall be completed through further theological studies in the fourth and fifth years.

Course of Studies

8. (1) To complete the programme of studies, students shall be required to obtain a total of 150 credits, of which a minimum of 54 credits shall be in the areas of study listed in paragraph (2) of regulation 7, and 96 credits shall be in theological studies as indicated in paragraph (3) of regulation 7.

(2) The programme of studies during the first three years of the Course shall consist of:

(a) 36 credits in Theology and Religious Studies; and

(b) 54 credits in Philosophy and related areas of study, of which 4 credits shall be awarded for a pass in the synoptic examination in Philosophy.

(3) The programme of studies during the fourth and fifth year of the Course shall consist of 60 credits in further studies in all the basic theological disciplines, of which 6 credits shall be awarded for a pass in the synoptic examination in Theology.

Catalogue of Study-Units

9. The Board shall draw up a catalogue of study-units for each area of theological studies. The catalogue shall indicate the code, title, and description of each study-unit, the credits assigned to each study-unit, and the methods of teaching and assessment. The Board shall publish the catalogue prior to the commencement of each Course, following the approval of Senate.

Assessment and Progress

10. (1) Credits shall be assigned according to the following grades in descending order of merit: A, B, C, and D. Failure shall be indicated by F. Incomplete work due to justifiable reasons (illness, approved absence, etc.) shall be indicated as I. The grades awarded shall take into account the students' performance in one or more of the following elements, as deemed appropriate

by the Board: coursework, fieldwork, research, and practical, written and/or oral assessments.

(2) Students who fail in any study-unit shall be allowed a supplementary assessment. Such a supplementary assessment should normally have the same mode of assessment as the corresponding first assessment. Supplementary assessments of study-units shall be held at the next scheduled examination session (May or September) as the case may be. In the case of assignments, the supplementary assessment shall be made by arrangement with the lecturer concerned. In the supplementary assessment, the maximum grade that may be awarded shall be grade D.

(3) Students, who in the re-sit fail in a study-unit or study-units to which, in all, three credits or less are assigned in a particular semester, may register again for the study-unit or study-units in which they failed and submit for a re-assessment. In this case, the study-unit or study units shall be covered in a form to be established by the lecturer/s concerned in consultation with the Dean. This concession may be availed of only once during the Course.

(4) Students may not register for a study-unit for which they do not have the pre-requisites or without registering also for its concurrent study-unit/s, except with the permission of the Board.

(5) The Board may allow students to transfer credits obtained for study-units in a course of studies at this University or at a university recognised for the purpose by the Senate, provided such study-units are comparable in content and level to the ones offered in the Course. Not more than one-third of the minimum number of credits required for the award of the Degree may be transferred.

Synoptic Examinations

11. (1) There shall be a synoptic examination in Philosophy at the end of the third year and a synoptic examination in Theology at the end of the fifth year.

(2) Students shall be eligible to sit for the synoptic examination in Philosophy if they:

(a) have registered for, and completed, the study-units in the areas of study indicated in paragraph (2) of regulation 7, to which a minimum of 50 credits are assigned and have obtained at least 45 credits, by the end of the third year; and

(b) participate in integrative seminars, as required by the Board.

(3) The synoptic examination in Philosophy taken as a main area of study in the course leading to the Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Human Studies shall be considered equivalent to the synoptic examination in Philosophy prescribed in these regulations.

(4) Students shall be eligible to sit for the synoptic examination in Theology if they:

(a) have registered for, and completed, the study-units in the areas of study indicated in paragraph (3) of regulation 7, to which a minimum of 90 credits are assigned and have obtained at least 85 credits by the end of the fifth year; and

(b) participate in integrative seminars, as required by the Board.

(5) The Synoptic Examinations shall normally be held in June and shall consist of two three-hour papers in Philosophy and three three-hour papers in Theology. A *viva voce* examination may also be held.

Supplementary Session of Examinations

12. (1) Students who fail in any paper of the Synoptic Examinations in any area of study shall be required to sit for the failed paper/s in the September Supplementary Session of Examinations. If successful, the maximum grade that may be awarded shall be grade D.

(2) In the case of failure in the Supplementary Session of Examinations, students shall be required to re-sit all the papers of the Synoptic Examination in the failed area/s of study in June of the following year, with the possibility of re-sitting any failed paper/s in the September Supplementary Session of Examinations. If successful, the maximum grade that may be awarded shall be grade D. If unsuccessful, such students shall be considered to have failed the Course.

Final Result

13. (1) The final result shall take into consideration the students' performance in the study-units and in the Synoptic Examinations according to the following weighting:

Study-Units	60%
Synoptic Examinations at the end of the third year	10%
Synoptic Examinations at the end of the fifth year	30%.

(2) The names of students who have qualified for the award of the Degree shall be published in a list in alphabetical order classified as follows:

Category I	(Summa cum laude)
Category IIA	(Magna cum laude)
Category IIB	(Cum laude)
Category III	(Bene Probatus)
Passed	(Probatus).

Re-Admission to the Course

14. Students who interrupt their studies may be allowed to re-join the Course under those conditions as the Board may in each case deem fit.

Eligibility for the Award of the Degree of Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Human Studies

15. (1) Students who complete the first three years of the Bachelor of Sacred Theology course shall be eligible for the award of the degree of Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Human Studies, provided that they:

(a) satisfy the requirements of the respective study programme; and

(b) register for, and are successful, in the Synoptic Examinations of the Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Human Studies course.

(2) The final degree classification shall be made in accordance with the criteria established for the award of the Bachelor of Arts in Theology and Human Studies.

Transitory Clause

16. Students who complete the first year of the Bachelor of Sacred Theology course by September 2001 may continue the Course under these regulations and under those conditions that the Board may impose.