L.N. 208 of 1998

EDUCATION ACT
(CAP. 327)

Bachelor of Education (Honours) - B. Ed. (Hons) - Degree Course Regulations, 1998

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 Education (Honours) - B. Ed. (Hons) - Degree Course Regulations, 1998.

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

"the Board" means the Board of the Faculty of Education;

"the Course" means the Course leading to the Degree of Bachelor of Education (Honours) - B. Ed. (Hons); and

"the Degree" means the Degree of Bachelor of Education (Honours) - B. Ed. (Hons).

Applicability

2. These regulations shall apply to courses which started in October 1994 or later.

Eligibility for the Degree

3. In order to be eligible for the award of the Degree, students must:

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

(b) complete the course of studies, qualify in the Final Examinations and satisfy any other requirements as prescribed in these regulations; and

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

Special Course Requirements

4. To be registered as regular students in the Course, applicants must, besides satisfying the General Entry Requirements specified in the Admission Regulations of the University, be in possession of a pass in the Matriculation Examination at Advanced Level at Grade C or better, or equivalent, in the subject/s chosen as a Teaching Area/s, unless otherwise specified by the Board with the approval of Senate,
provided that:

(a) with effect from 1st October 1997, applicants choosing Technical Design and Technology as a Teaching Area shall be in possession of a pass in the Matriculation Examination at Advanced Level at Grade C or better in either Graphical Communication or Engineering Drawing and of a pass at Intermediate Level or higher in either Art or Applied Mathematics or Computing or Information Technology or Physics or Pure Mathematics; and

(b) with effect from 1st October 2000, applicants choosing Primary Education as a Teaching Area after completing Part One of the Course shall be in possession at admission of passes in the Matriculation Examination at Intermediate Level or higher at Grade C or better in English, Maltese and in

either Applied Mathematics or Biology or Chemistry or Environmental Science or Physics or Pure Mathematics.

Duration of Course

5. (1) The Course shall extend over four full-time academic years and shall be divided into two parts: Part One and Part Two.

(2) Students shall be required to register before the beginning of each academic year.

(3) Students may not complete the Course earlier than four years or later than five years from the date of first admission to the Course, except in special circumstances with the permission of the Senate, acting on the advice of the Board.

Course of Studies

6. (1) The course of studies shall consist of:

(a) study-units to which not less than eighty credits are assigned in:

(i) Foundation Studies in Education; and

(ii) a number of Teaching Areas approved by the Board from which students are required to choose two;

(b) optional study-units to which not more than eight credits are assigned, including not more than three credits obtained for extracurricular activities, of which not more than two shall be obtained in any one year, as approved by the Board;

(c) a teaching practice period in each year of the Course; and

(d) a dissertation.

(2) In each year of the Course, students may register for study-units to which not more than twenty-five credits are assigned and shall obtain not less than eighteen credits in the first and third years and not less than fourteen credits in the second and fourth years.

(3) A catalogue of study-units, indicating the credits assigned to each and which study-units are compulsory, shall be published before the commencement of the Course, after approval by Senate on the recommendation of the Board.

(4) The Board may exempt students from the requirement of obtaining a credit for a particular study-unit if they have obtained, from the University or from an institution recognised by the Senate for the purpose, a qualification which the Board deems to be equivalent to the study-unit concerned.

(5) The Board may allow students to follow study-units in another university or institution of higher education, provided that the credits obtained shall be evaluated according to criteria established by the Board.

(6) The maximum number of credits from which students may be exempted throughout the Course shall not exceed twenty-four, except by special permission of Senate.

Part One of the Course

7. (1) Part One shall extend over the first two years of the Course.

(2) Students shall be required to choose two Teaching Areas from a list of teaching areas offered by the Board.

(3) Students who fail to obtain a minimum of eighteen credits by the end of the first year shall not be allowed to proceed to the second year.

(4) To complete Part One and to proceed to Part Two of the Course, students shall be required to:

(a) obtain not less than thirty-eight credits, including fifteen credits in Foundation Studies in Education and ten credits in each of the two Teaching Areas, except that if two Teaching Areas are integrated a total of twenty credits in the combined teaching areas shall be required;

(b) a pass in the second year Teaching Practice; and

(c) a pass in an English Proficiency Test, if students were admitted to the Course in October 1997 or later.

(5) Students who fail to satisfy the conditions for proceeding to the next year of the Course may be allowed a further year of studies by the Board under such conditions as it may impose, provided that in no case shall students complete the Course in a period longer than five years, except with the special permission of Senate, on the recommendation of the Board.

Part Two of the Course

8. (1) Part Two shall extend over the third and fourth years of the Course.

(2) Students shall be required to pursue studies in only one of the Teaching Areas chosen in Part One, unless they are allowed to retain two Teaching Areas by the Board.

(3) To complete the Course and to qualify for the award of the Degree, students shall be required to:

(a) obtain not less than seventy-six credits, including twenty-four credits in Foundation Studies in Education, forty credits in the Teaching Area/s and eight optional / elective credits;

(b) satisfy the teaching practice requirements as specified in regulation 11;

(c) pass in the dissertation; and

(d) pass in the Final Examinations.

(4) Students who, by the end of the third year, do not obtain a minimum of eighteen credits during that year, or who by the end of the fourth year do not satisfy the requirements for the award of the Degree, may be allowed a further year of studies by the Board under such conditions as it may impose, provided that in no case shall students complete the Course in a period longer than five years, except with the special permission of Senate, on the recommendation of the Board.

Assessment and Progress

9. (1) Credits shall be assigned according to the following grades in descending order of merit: A, B, C, D and F, where F indicates Fail.

(2) Students who fail to obtain a credit for a compulsory study-unit shall be re-assessed once during the same academic year by arrangement with the lecturer concerned. In the re-assessment the maximum grade that may be awarded shall be grade D.

(3) Such re-assessments shall be held during the next scheduled test week or in September, whichever is the earlier.

(4) Students who choose Teaching Areas or study-units from other faculties must satisfy the assessment criteria of those faculties, unless otherwise determined by the Board, except that grades obtained in the assessment of such study-units shall be translated in the grades indicated in paragraph (1) of this regulation.

Final Examinations

10. (1) Final Examinations shall be held in Educational Theory and shall examine the relevant study-units covered in the final year of the Course.

(2) The Final Examinations in Educational Theory shall consist of three papers, one each in Educational Psychology, Sociology of Education, and Philosophy of Education.

(3) To satisfy the Final Examinations requirement, students must be successful in each paper. Students who fail in any of the three papers may have a supplementary session in the failed paper/s once.

(4) The grade obtained through a supplementary session of the Final Examinations shall be the minimum pass grade.

Teaching Practice

11. (1) Teaching Practice shall comprise a total of twenty-two weeks' teaching in schools under tutorial supervision. The twenty-two weeks shall be divided into four sessions, with one Teaching Practice session held in each of the four years of the Course.

(2) Students shall be required to pass three Teaching Practice sessions, including those in the second and the final years and shall be allowed only one repeat.

(3) Students shall be considered as not having completed a Teaching Practice session if, for any reason whatsoever, they fail to teach the full duration of the Teaching Practice or its equivalent. As from May 1996, students who fail to attend for four days or less shall have that particular period of Teaching Practice extended by the same number of days. If students fail to attend for five or more days, the Teaching Practice shall be considered incomplete and the full Teaching Practice shall have to be repeated.

(4) In very exceptional cases, and with the approval of the Board, students who have not been able to carry out a block Teaching Practice may be allowed to undertake instead a period of teaching staggered over a number of weeks. This provision shall not apply to the Teaching Practice of the final year.

Dissertation

12. Students must satisfy the dissertation requirement, which is assigned to six credits, as specified in the Guidelines on Dissertations approved by the Board. Students who fail the dissertation requirement can re-submit the dissertation once within a period of twelve months, in which case the maximum grade that may be awarded shall be the minimum pass grade.

Final Result

13. (1) The final classification of the Degree shall be based on the best seventy-six credits as specified in sub-paragraph (a) of paragraph (3) of regulation 8 and the six credits assigned to the dissertation as specified in regulation 12.

(2) The names of students who qualify for the award of the Degree shall be published in a list in alphabetical order divided into:

First Class Honours
Second Class Honours(Upper Division)
Second Class Honours (Lower Division)
Third Class Honours
Pass without Honours.