

REGULATIONS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF BUDDHIST COUNSELLING (MBC)

These Regulations apply to candidates admitted to the Master of Buddhist Counselling curriculum in the academic year 2026-27 and thereafter.

(See also General Regulations and Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula)

Any publication based on work approved for a higher degree should contain a reference to the effect that the work was submitted to The University of Hong Kong for the award of the degree.

Admission requirements

MBC 1.

To be eligible for admission to the courses leading to the Master of Buddhist Counselling, candidates

- (a) shall comply with the General Regulations;
 - (b) shall comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (c) shall hold
 - (i) a Bachelor's degree of this University; or
 - (ii) a qualification of equivalent standard from this University or another comparable institution accepted for this purpose;
 - (d) shall have satisfactorily completed BSTC6079 Early Buddhism and BSTC6002 Mahayana Buddhism in the Master of Buddhist Studies curriculum, or courses of Buddhist studies offered by another comparable institution accepted for this purpose; and
 - (e) shall satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination if required.
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Qualifying examination

MBC 2.

- (a) A qualifying examination may be set to test the candidates' formal academic ability or their ability to follow the courses of study prescribed. It shall consist of one or more written papers or their equivalent, and may include a project report or dissertation.
 - (b) Candidates who are required to satisfy the examiners in a qualifying examination shall not be permitted to register until they have satisfied the examiners in the examination.
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Advanced standing

MBC 3.

In accordance with TPG 3 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula, Advanced Standing may be granted to candidates in recognition of studies completed successfully before admission to the curriculum. The amount of credits to be granted for Advanced Standing shall be

determined by the Board of the Faculty, in accordance with the following principles:

- (a) Candidates who can produce evidence, including but not limited to transcript and course syllabus, that a course taken elsewhere is equivalent in contents to any one of the three compulsory core courses can apply for Advanced Standing.
 - (b) Advanced Standing will only be granted to one core course at maximum.
 - (c) Advanced Standing will only be considered if the previous studies were done within 5 years before admission to the curriculum.
 - (d) Advanced Standing will not be granted for elective courses and capstone experience.
 - (e) Credits granted for Advanced Standing shall not normally be included in the calculation of the GPA unless permitted by the Board of the Faculty but will be recorded on the transcript of the candidate.
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Award of degree

MBC 4.

To be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Buddhist Counselling, candidates shall

- (a) comply with the General Regulations;
 - (b) comply with the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
 - (c) complete the curriculum as prescribed in the syllabuses and satisfy the examiners in accordance with the regulations as set out below; and
 - (d) have achieved a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 1.0 or above.
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Period of study

MBC 5.

The curriculum shall normally extend over one academic year of full-time study or two academic years of part-time study. Candidates shall not be permitted to extend their studies beyond the maximum period of registration of two academic years of full-time study or four academic years of part-time study, unless otherwise permitted or required by the Board of the Faculty.

Completion of curriculum

MBC 6.

To complete the curriculum, candidates

- (a) shall satisfy the requirements prescribed in TPG 6 of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula;
- (b) shall follow courses of instruction and complete satisfactorily all prescribed written work;
- (c) shall complete and present a satisfactory capstone experience as set out in MBC 7; and
- (d) shall satisfy the examiners in all prescribed courses and in any prescribed form of assessment.

Capstone experience

MBC 7.

The capstone experience project is compulsory and can be conducted in the following forms:

- (a) Contemplative and religious practices in Buddhism;
- (b) A self-contemplative and reflective autobiography;
- (c) Buddhist homiletics; or
- (d) Buddhist counselling case study.

Title of the capstone experience project should be submitted for approval on a date set by the Centre of Buddhist Studies. Candidates shall submit a statement that the project output represents their own work undertaken after registration as candidates for the degree.

Assessment

MBC 8.

- (a) Grades shall be awarded in accordance with TPG 9(a) of the Regulations for Taught Postgraduate Curricula. Only passed courses will earn credits.
 - (b) An assessment of candidates' coursework during their studies may be taken into account in determining their result in each paper; or, where so prescribed in the syllabuses, may constitute part or whole of the assessment of one or more courses.
 - (c) There shall be no appeal against the results of examinations and all other forms of assessment.
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MBC 9.

Candidates who have failed to satisfy the examiners on their first attempt in not more than two courses, whether by means of written examination papers or coursework assessment, during any of the academic year of study, may be permitted

- (a) to present themselves for re-examination in the course or courses of failure, with or without repeating any part of the curriculum, on a specified date; or
 - (b) to re-submit their work for the course or courses of failure for re-assessment within a specified period, but no later than the end of the following semester (not including the summer semester); or
 - (c) for elective courses, to take another course in lieu and satisfy the assessment requirements.
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MBC 10.

Subject to the provisions of Regulation MBC 7, candidates who have failed to present a satisfactory output in the capstone experience project may be permitted to submit a new or revised project output within a specified period.

Supplementary examination

MBC 11.

Candidates who are unable because of illness to be present for one or more papers in any written examination may apply for permission to present themselves at a supplementary examination to be held before the beginning of the following academic year. Any such application shall be made on a form prescribed within seven calendar days of the first day of the candidates' absence from the examination.

Discontinuation of studies

MBC 12.

Candidates who

- (a) are not permitted to present themselves for re-examination/re-submission in any written examination or coursework assessment in which they have failed to satisfy the examiners or to revise and re-present their project outputs in the capstone experience; or
- (b) have failed to satisfy the examiners on second attempt in any coursework assessment or examination or in their project outputs in the capstone experience; or
- (c) have failed more than two courses on the first attempt in an academic year; or
- (d) have failed to achieve a Cumulative Grade Point Average of 1.0 or higher for two consecutive semesters with course enrolment; or
- (e) have exceeded the maximum period of registration as specified in MBC 5

may be required to discontinue their studies under the provisions of General Regulation G 12.

Assessment results

MBC 13.

On successful completion of the curriculum, candidates who have shown exceptional merit may be awarded a mark of distinction, and this mark shall be recorded in the candidates' degree diplomas.
