

Which Academic Program Rules apply to me at the time of thesis submission?

Students can choose whether they wish their thesis to be examined under the academic program rules in place during the year of enrolment, or the rules in place at the time of submission.

Where possible*, it is recommended that students elect to submit under the current rules and specifications for thesis for the following reasons:

- To ensure that the thesis delivered to examiners is consistent with current national and international expectations of a Doctoral or Master by Research thesis;
- That the University has, in general, moved to permit greater flexibility in the format of research theses e.g. PhDs may now be submitted in publication format (containing a mixture of published, submitted and unpublished papers), by creative work and exegesis or in the traditional narrative form; and
- The yearly revisions to the program rules and specifications for thesis document have resulted in greater clarity of doctoral and Master requirements to students, staff *and* examiners.

Note that if a student chooses to be examined under the current rules as recommended, they will be required to abide by all rules for the current year and all requirements detailed in the current *specifications for thesis* document. Thesis examiners will be sent a copy of the current program rules and current specifications for thesis to use as a reference during their examination of the thesis.

Conversely, if the program rules for the year of enrolment are selected, students will be required to abide by all program rules for their year of commencement together with all requirements detailed in the *specifications for thesis* document for that year. Thesis examiners will be sent a copy of the relevant year's program rules and *specifications for thesis* to use as a reference during their examination of the thesis.

Note that where a student has transferred programs e.g. from a Masters to a PhD, the choice of academic program rules and *specifications* will be between those in place during the year of commencement in the current program (i.e. PhD) and the rules in place at the time of submission.

* In the case of a program which requires completion of a coursework component, the academic program rules and specifications for thesis available at the time of commencement of candidature will ALWAYS apply where the required coursework component has changed between candidature commencement and thesis submission.

When should I choose which Academic Program Rules and Specifications will apply to me?

At the time of lodging their notification of intention to submit, students will be asked to nominate whether they wish their thesis to be examined under the current rules and *specifications for thesis*, or those in place in their year of enrolment. However, it is recommended that the options are evaluated before this and preferably before thesis preparation is underway in earnest as the decision may impact significantly on the format and length of the thesis.

For example, a PhD student who first enrolled in 2000 who chose to be examined under the 2000 academic program rules would not be eligible to submit a PhD by publication; however, no word limit would be applied to the thesis. In contrast, a student who chose to be examined under the current (2008) program rules, would be eligible to submit a PhD by publication, however, a thesis word limit of 80,000 words would apply.

Where can I find a copy of the academic program rules and specifications for thesis that were current in my year of enrolment?

Historical copies of academic program rules and specifications for thesis documents are available in the University Calendar for the relevant year and online at:
http://www.adelaide.edu.au/graduatecentre/program_rules/

What if I have already submitted my notification of intention to submit?

There are a relatively small number of students who will find themselves in transition. That is, they have submitted a notification of intention to submit, but have not elected to submit under the rules in place at enrolment or the current (2008) rules. In these circumstances, the Graduate Centre recommends that the current rules are the rules of examination since to choose otherwise may cause delays in the examination process.

Any student who is in this position is welcome to contact the [Graduate Centre](#) to discuss their situation.

Can I choose to abide by some Academic Program Rules/Specifications from my year of enrolment and some from the current year?

No, whichever set of rules/specifications you choose to abide by will apply in full.