The University of Melbourne governs its operations through a hierarchy of instruments, as follows:

An instrument lower in the hierarchy must not be inconsistent with an instrument higher in the hierarchy. Where two instruments in the hierarchy conflict, the instrument higher in the hierarchy takes precedence.
The table below provides information about each of the instruments in the regulatory framework, including a definition, approval authority and location.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Instrument</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Approval authority</th>
<th>Application</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>University of Melbourne Act 2009 (Vic)</td>
<td>The Act establishes the University, its governing body (University Council) and its core functions. The Act empowers the University to enact subordinate legislation (statutes and regulations) and act by way of resolution of its governing body or by the decision of its authorised officers.</td>
<td>Enacted, amended or revoked by the Victorian parliament.</td>
<td>University-wide</td>
<td>[University of Melbourne Act 2009 (Vic) [PDF 800KB]]</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| University statute | Subordinate legislation under the Act. Statutes are the primary legislative instrument of the University. Statutes are enacted when:  
  - the Act expressly requires it  
  - the University seeks to regulate conduct other than the conduct of an employee, client or other person who has contracted with it  
  - the Act has given a power to act by legislation, and the power is not one generally available to a body corporate (that is, the University has been granted a power to act as a body politic in areas not necessarily available to it as a body corporate, so activities in these areas must be governed by University legislation), e.g. granting academic awards or honorary titles, disciplining students  
  - balancing the rights of different classes of members of the University, e.g. intellectual property. | Enacted, amended or revoked by University Council with approval of the Victorian Minister for Higher Education and Skills | University-wide  | [University Secretary’s Department website]                                                       |
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| University regulation | Subordinate legislative instruments under the Act, made under a ‘parent’ statute to regulate interpretation and implementation of the statute. | Where provided for in a statute enacted by Council, a regulation may be made, amended or revoked by Council; or, if the University statutes so authorise, a regulation may be made, amended or revoked by  
  - the Vice-Chancellor, or  
  - Academic Board (with Council endorsement). | University-wide | University Secretary’s Department website |
| University policy       | A formal statement of principle that:  
  - Regulates University operations, and  
  - Is an instrument approved under the Policy Framework.  
University policies may also contain procedural principles, which inform what needs to be done to implement a policy across the University. | Refer to the Melbourne Policy Framework. | University-wide | Melbourne Policy Library |
| University process     | The group of activities and tasks undertaken by staff to achieve a consistent output. | Refer to the Melbourne Process Management Framework (under development) | University-wide | Melbourne Process Library |

Questions?
For more information or assistance, contact the Policy and Compliance Education team.