



Melbourne College of Divinity

REGULATION 9 – DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY

9.1 - Admission and Enrolment

9.1.1 A person may seek the permission of the Academic Board (the Board) to be admitted as a probationary candidate for the degree of Doctor of Theology if he or she:

has obtained, or is qualified to obtain, a four year Bachelor with Honours degree or equivalent, in an appropriate discipline, as determined by the Board, of at least H2A standard, from a university or college recognised by the Board for the purposes of the degree of Doctor of Theology.

9.1.2 The Board may determine that certain awards in appropriate disciplines of other tertiary institutions, recognised by the Board, or in exceptional cases advanced levels of relevant professional attainment, be recognised as equivalent qualifications for the purposes of clause 9.1.1, and upon such recognition, either in general terms or in relation to particular applications, the Board may proceed as if the applicant fell within the terms of clause 9.1.1.

9.1.3 Permission may be given to enrol only where the Board is able to provide adequate supervision, and that it is satisfied that the candidate will have access to adequate libraries.

9.1.4 Each candidate must be attached to a Recognised Teaching Institution for the whole period of candidature. The Board may permit a candidate to attend another institution for part of the period of candidature.

9.1.5 Each candidate must have a Supervisor appointed by the Board.

9.1.6 Where the Supervisor appointed by the Board is not a member of staff of a Recognised Teaching Institution, the Board must, on the recommendation of the Research Coordinator of the candidate's Recognised Teaching Institution, appoint such a member of staff as the associate Supervisor. The associate Supervisor is to report regularly to the Supervisor on the progress of the candidate's work.

9.1.7 Notwithstanding any other provision in these regulations the Board may require each applicant to demonstrate fitness for admission by carrying out such work and sitting for such examinations as the Board may determine.

9.1.8 The Board may discontinue the candidature of any person whom it deems to have made unsatisfactory progress.

9.2 – Confirmation of candidature

9.2.1 Every approved candidate is first admitted to probationary candidature, until such time as candidature has been confirmed by the Board, on the advice of a Confirmation of Candidature panel, after the panel has assessed the research project.

Such panels must be convened no later than 12 months after admission for full-time

candidates, or no later than 2 years after admission for part-time candidates.

- 9.2.2 Each applicant for confirmation of candidature must submit a comprehensive research proposal, including written work of between 10,-12,000 words completed during probationary candidature and a detailed bibliography, together with the written support of the Supervisor.
- 9.2.3 The Board will appoint members of the Confirmation Panel who will determine whether or not the criteria for confirmation determined by the Board have been met.
- 9.2.4 The research proposal, once approved by the Board, must be submitted to the Human Research Ethics Committee of the College as established by clause 2.5.
- 9.2.5 If submission of a research proposal is not made in due time, or if the Board declines to confirm candidature, the probationary candidature may be terminated at the expiration of the probationary period referred to in clause 9.2.1, or the candidate may be offered a transfer to masters candidature. The Board may also refuse to allow an upgrade of candidature for those students who apply under the terms of clause 9.3.1.

9.3 - Upgrading from MTheol candidature

- 9.3.1 A candidate for the degree of Master of Theology may apply to transfer to the degree of Doctor of Theology after a period of candidature of not less than two semesters of study for a full-time candidate or four semesters of study for a part-time candidate.
- 9.3.2 The applicant must submit a comprehensive research proposal to a Confirmation of Candidature panel, including written work of between 10-12,000 words completed for the Master's degree and a detailed bibliography, together with the written support of the Supervisor, and proceed *as per* the requirements of clauses, 9.2.3 and 9.2.4.
- 9.3.3 If the upgrade of candidature is approved by the Board, candidature will normally be regarded as a continuation of the same program of study and the commencement date of doctoral candidature will be backdated and set at the commencement date of the Master's candidature. In special circumstances the Board may consider and approve an application to back-date the doctoral candidature by a lesser amount.

9.4 – Course of Studies

- 9.4.1 Each candidate is to proceed on such terms and in conformity with such procedures as are determined from time to time by the Board, in addition to those specified in this Regulation. General determinations made by the Board are to be published by the Registrar; specific determinations applying to a particular candidate are to be communicated to him or her by the Registrar.
- 9.4.2 Each candidate must write a thesis (the Thesis) of not more than 100,000 words, on a topic approved by the Board.
- 9.4.3 Every candidate for the degree of Doctor of Theology admitted after January 2012 must undertake an approved postgraduate level subject in research methodology, unless exempted by the Board.
- 9.4.4 The thesis must form a distinct contribution to theological learning, showing evidence of original research and the exercise of independent critical power.
- 9.4.5 Unless the Board determines otherwise, the minimum length of candidature for the DTheol is 2.5 years after admission, and the maximum length of candidature is 3 years full-time after admission, or 6 years part-time after admission. Two periods of 6 months' extension may be granted to full-time candidates, and two periods of 12 months' extension may be granted to part-time candidates. Any extension of time is granted only on a certificate from the Supervisor that the work is well advanced.

9.4.6 The thesis must be examined in accordance with Regulation 26.

9.5 - Awarding of Degree

9.5.1 Where the candidate has satisfied the examiners and completed the requirements for the Doctor of Theology, the Board may recommend to the Council that the degree be awarded.

9.5.2 In cases where the Board is unable to certify that the requirements for the degree of Doctor of Theology have been met, *as per* clause 9.5.1, but is able to certify that the requirements for the degree of Master of Theology have been met, *as per* clause 7.3.1, the Board may recommend that the degree of Master of Theology be awarded instead.

9.5.3 A candidate upon whom the degree of Doctor of Theology has been conferred is entitled to use the letters 'DTheol' as a suffix to their name.

MELBOURNE COLLEGE OF DIVINITY

GOVERNANCE

DOCTOR OF THEOLOGY

GENERAL DETERMINATIONS MADE BY THE ACADEMIC BOARD RELATED TO REGULATION 9

In this Regulation, 'appropriate discipline' refers to theology, divinity or its associated disciplines, in relation to the fields of prior academic study required for admission.

MCD equivalents to the four year Bachelor with Honours degree are determined by the Board to be:

- the Master of Theological Studies from the MCD, with a 12,000 word research essay graded to at least 75%, and a 75% average across the coursework components of the degree;
- the Master of Divinity from the MCD with a 12,000 word research essay graded to at least 75%, and a 75% average across the coursework components of the degree;
- the MA (Theol) from the MCD, with a 12,000 word research essay graded to at least 75%;
- the Graduate Diploma in Theology from the MCD, entered under the provisions of Reg.20.2.1.2, including a 12,000 word research essay graded to at least 75%, and a 75% average across the coursework components of the degree.