



Melbourne College of Divinity

Established by the Melbourne College of Divinity Act (Victoria) 1910.

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Regulation 8 – Doctor of Ministry Studies (DMinStuds)

8.1 - Interpretation

In this Regulation,

- 8.1.1 ‘The Board’ means ‘the Academic Board’ established as a committee of the College under Regulation 2.1.
- 8.1.2 ‘Supervisor’ means the person or persons appointed by the Board to supervise a candidate.

8.2 - Admission

- 8.2.1 Subject to the provisions of 8.2.3, 8.2.4 and 8.2.5, a person who has obtained, or is qualified to obtain, the Master of Ministry, Master of Theology or Doctor of Theology degrees of the College may seek permission of the Board to be admitted as a probationary candidate for the degree of Doctor of Ministry Studies. The Board in each case may impose such terms and conditions as it may deem necessary or desirable before permitting enrolment.
- 8.2.2 The Board may recognise awards in appropriate disciplines of other tertiary institutions, or in exceptional cases advanced levels of relevant professional attainment, for the purposes of being admitted to probationary candidature in the Doctor of Ministry Studies; 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 Regulation 8.2.1.
- 8.2.3 Every admission to probationary candidature is conditional upon the applicant having been involved in the practice of ministry for at least six years, to the satisfaction of the Board.
- 8.2.4 Notwithstanding any other provision in these regulations, the Board may require any applicant to demonstrate their fitness for admission by carrying out such work and sitting for such examinations as the Board determines.
- 8.2.5 No credits towards, or exemptions from, the requirements of the degree will be granted on the basis of studies completed prior to admission to probationary candidature, but the Board may grant such advanced standing in the degree as it determines to a candidate who transfers from another programme which the Board decides is of equivalent status, providing that in all cases the requirements of clauses 8.2.1 or 8.2.2, and 8.2.3, are fulfilled.

8.3 – Confirmation of candidature

- 8.3.1 Every candidate is initially admitted to probationary candidature, and must fulfil one of the following qualifying requirements to be enrolled for the degree:
- 8.3.1.1 Candidates who have obtained the degree of Master of Ministry of the College are required to pass a minimum of two postgraduate units at distinction standard. The Board may grant a candidate permission to take one or more of these units at another tertiary institution. This requirement may not be met by taking subjects previously taken for degree credit or other purposes.
- 8.3.1.2 Candidates who have obtained the degree of Master of Theology or Doctor of

Theology but not the degree of Master of Ministry of the College are required to participate in one Collegium Group and one Residential School, as prescribed by the Board. This requirement may not be met by taking units previously taken for degree credit or other purposes.

8.3.1.3 Candidates who are admitted under the provisions of 8.2.2 will have the qualifying requirements determined by the Board, but in no case will such requirements be less than those specified in 8.3.1.1.

8.3.2 Candidates who have not included an approved unit on research methodology and theological reflection as part of their previous degree or demonstrated such ability in previous study, will be required to take such an approved unit or units in addition to the other requirements of this clause.

8.3.3 Every probationary candidate is required to pass a Comprehensive Assessment as determined by the Board before being confirmed as candidates for the degree.

8.3.4 Without limiting its discretion in the matter, the Board must only confirm candidature if it is satisfied that the candidate will have adequate supervision, access to adequate libraries, and a written endorsement by a representative of the body to whom the candidate is responsible for his or her ministry.

8.3.5 Where a confirmed candidate intends to undertake the Doctor of Ministry Studies using flexible delivery arrangements, the Board must be satisfied as to the candidate's capacity to fulfil the requirements of the degree through these arrangements.

8.3.6 Unless the Board otherwise determines, the Doctor of Ministry Studies must be completed in not less than three and not more than six years from the time of confirmation of candidature. Any extension of time is to be granted only on a certificate from the Adviser that the work is progressing satisfactorily.

8.3.7 The Board may discontinue the candidature (probationary or confirmed) of any person whom it deems to have made unsatisfactory progress.

8.4 - Course of Studies

8.4.1 Each candidate (probationary or confirmed) 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.

8.4.3 Candidates are required to complete satisfactorily two doctoral coursework units as approved by the Board.

8.4.4 Candidates are required to complete the following in sequence, before being advanced by the Board to research status:

8.4.4.1 Participation in a Doctoral Seminar, and satisfying the requirements for its completion as prescribed by the Board. The Seminar is to provide candidates with the opportunity to develop their proposed Supervised Research Projects for consideration by the approval panel, and deal with current issues relating to the practice of ministry and/or with recent developments in at least one theological discipline or methodology.

8.4.4.2 An interview with an approval panel consisting of the Director of Ministry Studies, the project Supervisor and one other qualified person, to assess the suitability and design of the proposed Supervised Research Project;

8.4.4.3 Advancement of the candidate to research status by the Board, on the recommendation of the approval panel;

8.4.4.4 Subsequent approval of the Supervised Research Project by the Human Research Ethics Committee of the College as established by Regulation 2.6.

8.4.5 *Supervised Research Project*

8.4.5.1 Each candidate must undertake a Supervised Research Project on a subject and of a kind approved by the Board.

8.4.5.2 The Board must arrange for the appropriate supervision of each Project.

8.4.5.3 Each Project must deal with one or more aspects of the practice of ministry, in relation to which each candidate is to submit a Thesis or publication(s) which must give evidence of systematic investigation, disciplined and critical reflection and a capacity to research and practise ministry at a high level.

8.4.5.4 The Project is to be written up in one of the following forms:

- a) A Thesis not exceeding 50,000 words in length (excluding footnotes, tables bibliography and appendices) but the Board may agree to receive part or all of a thesis in other than written form providing the Board has given its approval to this prior to the commencement of the Project;
- b) The publication, or acceptance for publication, of a research paper or papers in a refereed journal or journals approved by the Board for such purpose;
- c) The publication of a manuscript by a publishing house approved by the Board for such purpose provided that such manuscript must be at least comparable in length and rigour to a) above.

Each candidate must receive the approval of the Board for the particular mode of presentation for his or her research prior to its being submitted. Candidates who are permitted to present their research other than as a Thesis may be asked to submit such additional written work as required by the Board

8.4.5.5 The Thesis or publication is to be examined in accordance with Regulation 26, including an Oral Defence of one hour.

8.5 - Award of Degree

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

8.5.2 A candidate upon whom the degree of Doctor of Ministry Studies has been conferred is entitled to use the letters 'DMinStuds' as a suffix to their name.

[rewritten 24/11/2004, adjusted for 2005 Act November 30th 2005]