



Melbourne College of Divinity

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

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Regulation 9 – Doctor of Theology (DTheol)

9.1 - Interpretation

In the Regulation,

- 9.1.1 'The Board' means 'the Academic Board' established as a committee of the Council under Regulation 2.1;
- 9.1.2 'Recognised Teaching Institution' means an institution or group of institutions recognised as an 'Recognised Teaching Institution' for the purposes of the Degrees of Master of Theology and Doctor of Theology in accordance with Regulation 3.5.

9.2 - Admission and Enrolment

- 9.2.1 A person may seek the permission of the Board to be admitted as a probationary candidate for the degree of Doctor of Theology if he or she
- 9.2.1.1 has obtained, or is qualified to obtain, the Master of Theology of the College at a standard deemed acceptable to the Board, or
 - 9.2.1.2 has obtained, or is qualified to obtain, the Bachelor of Theology, Bachelor of Divinity or Master of Divinity degrees of the College, in each case with First Class Honours; or
 - 9.2.1.3 has obtained, or is qualified to obtain, the degree of Master of Theological Studies of the College, including a 12,000-word Postgraduate essay with High Distinction, and an average of Distinction in the coursework components of the MTS.
- 9.2.2 The Board may determine that certain awards in appropriate disciplines of other tertiary institutions, or in exceptional cases advanced levels of relevant professional attainment, be recognised as equivalent qualifications for the purposes of clause 9.2.1, 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 9.2.1.
- 9.2.3 Without limiting its discretion in the matter, 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.
- 9.2.4 Each candidate must be attached to a Recognised Teaching Institution for the whole period of candidature provided that, in exceptional circumstances, the Board may permit a candidate to attend another institution for part of the period of candidature.
- 9.2.5 Where the Supervisor appointed by the Board is not a member of staff of the Recognised Teaching Institution to which the candidate is attached, the Board must, on the recommendation of the Research Coordinator of that 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.

- 9.2.6 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.
- 9.2.7 The Board may discontinue the candidature of any person whom it deems to have made unsatisfactory progress.

9.3 – Confirmation of candidature

- 9.3.1 Every approved candidate is first admitted to probationary candidature, until such time as candidature has been confirmed.
- Each candidate must sit a Confirmation of Candidature panel before confirmation can occur. Applications for such panels must be submitted no later than 12 months after admission for full-time candidates, or no later than 2 years after admission for part-time candidates
- 9.3.2 Each applicant for confirmation of candidature must submit a comprehensive research proposal, including written work completed during probationary candidature and a detailed bibliography, together with the written support of a Supervisor approved by the Board.
- 9.3.3 The Board will appoint assessors who will advise the Board as to whether or not the criteria determined by the Board have been met.
- 9.3.4 The research proposal, once approved by the Board, must be submitted to the Human Research Ethics Committee of the College as established by Regulation 2.6.
- 9.3.5 If no submission of a research proposal is made in due time, or if the Board declines to confirm candidature, the probationary candidature terminates at the expiration of the probationary period referred to in Regulation 9.3.1.

9.4 - Upgrading from MTheol candidature

- 9.4.1 A candidate for the degree of Master of Theology may apply to transfer to the degree of Doctor of Theology after a period of candidacy of not less than two semesters of study for a full-time candidate or four semesters of study for a part-time candidate.
- 9.4.2 The applicant must submit a comprehensive research proposal, including written work completed for the Master's degree and a detailed bibliography, together with the written support of a Supervisor approved by the Board.
- 9.4.3 The Board will appoint assessors who will advise the Board as to whether or not the criteria for the upgrading of candidature determined by the Board have been met.
- 9.4.4 If the upgrading 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.

9.5 – Course of Studies

- 9.5.1 Each candidate proceeds 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.
- 9.5.2 Each candidate must write a thesis of not more than 100,000 words, on a topic approved by the Board, and at the standard determined by the Board. 9.5.3 The thesis must form a

distinct contribution to theological learning, showing evidence of original research and the exercise of independent critical power.

- 9.5.4 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.
- 9.5.5 The thesis must be examined in accordance with Regulation 26.

9.6 - Awarding of Degree

- 9.6.1 When the candidate satisfies the examiners and completes the requirements for the Doctor of Theology, the Board must certify to the Council that the conditions for the award of the degree have been met, and therefore recommend that the degree be awarded.
- 9.6.2 In cases where the Board recommends that the degree not be awarded the Board may recommend that the degree of Master of Theology be awarded instead.
- 9.6.3 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.

*Rewritten 24/11/2004, effective 25/11/2004; adjusted for 2005 Act 30/11/2005.
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