

DEGREE PROGRAM STANDARDS

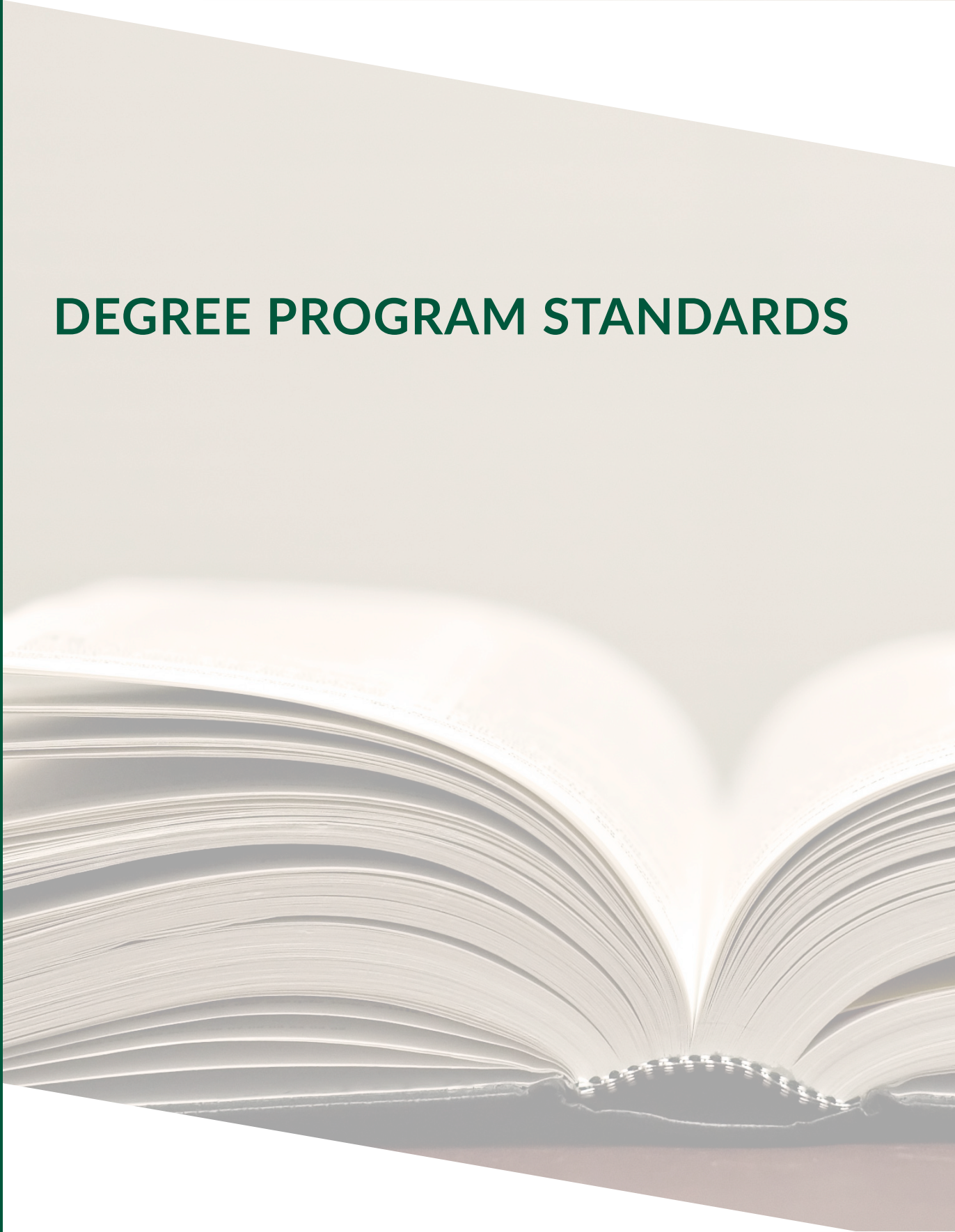


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Basic Programs Oriented Toward Ministerial Leadership

Standard A Master of Divinity (MDiv)

A.1 Purpose, goals, learning outcomes, and educational assessment

A.1.1 Purpose of the degree

A.1.1.1 The purpose of the Master of Divinity degree is to prepare persons for ordained ministry and for general pastoral and religious leadership responsibilities in congregations and other settings. Because of its breadth, it is the recommended degree for admission to the Doctor of Ministry degree program and a recommended degree for admission to advanced programs oriented to theological research and teaching.

A.1.2 Primary goals of the program

A.1.2.1 The goals an institution adopts for an MDiv degree should be related to the institution's mission and foster students' knowledge of religious heritage, understanding of the cultural context, growth in spiritual depth and moral integrity, and capacity for ministerial and public leadership.

A.1.3 Learning outcomes

A.1.3.1 The primary goals of the program shall be further delineated as demonstrable learning outcomes congruent with the institution's mission and purpose. Institutions shall demonstrate that students have achieved the goals or learning outcomes of the degree program by means of direct and indirect evidence of student learning.

A.1.3.2 These specific, learning outcomes should shape and inform the design of all courses, supervised ministry experiences, formation activities, and other instructional strategies to establish a coherent and integrated curriculum for the degree program.

A.1.4 Educational assessment

A.1.4.1 The institution offering the MDiv shall articulate the assessment strategy and criteria by which it regularly evaluates the educational effectiveness of the degree program. The institution shall determine the extent to which students have

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achieved the stated goals of the degree program by the use of both direct and indirect evidence.

A.1.4.2 The institution shall also maintain ongoing assessment by which it determines the extent to which the degree program is meeting the needs of students and the institution's overall goals for the program, including measures such as the percentage of students who complete the program and the percentage of graduates who find placement appropriate to their vocational intentions.

A.2 Program content

A.2.1 The MDiv program should provide a breadth of exposure to the theological disciplines as well as a depth of understanding within those disciplines. It should educate students for a comprehensive range of pastoral responsibilities and skills by providing opportunities for the appropriation of theological disciplines, for deepening understanding of the life of the church, for ongoing intellectual and ministerial formation, and for exercising the arts of ministry. The learning outcomes for the MDiv shall encompass the instructional areas of religious heritage, cultural context, personal and spiritual formation, and capacity for ministerial and public leadership. Each of the degree requirements shall be further refined as specific, demonstrable learning outcomes that are congruent with the institution's mission and purpose.

A.2.2 *Religious heritage:* The program shall provide structured opportunities to develop a comprehensive and discriminating understanding of the religious heritage.

A.2.2.1 Instruction shall be provided in Scripture, in the historical development and contemporary articulation of the doctrinal and theological tradition of the community of faith, and in the social and institutional history of that community.

A.2.2.2 Attention should be given both to the broader heritage of the Christian tradition as such and to the more specific character of particular Christian traditions and communities, to the ways the traditions transcend particular social and cultural settings, and to the ways they come to unique expression in them.

A.2.2.3 Instruction in these areas shall be conducted so as to indicate their interdependence with each other and with other areas of the curriculum as well as their significance for the exercise of pastoral leadership.

A.2.3 *Cultural context:* The program shall provide opportunities to develop a critical understanding of and creative engagement with the cultural realities and structures within which the church lives and carries out its mission.

A.2.3.1 The program shall provide for instruction in contemporary cultural and social issues and their significance for diverse linguistic and cultural contexts of ministry.

Such instruction should draw on the insights of the arts and humanities, the natural sciences, and the social sciences.

A.2.3.2 MDiv education shall engage students with the global character of the church as well as ministry in the multifaith and multicultural context of contemporary society. This should include attention to the wide diversity of religious traditions present in potential ministry settings, as well as expressions of social justice and respect congruent with the institution's mission and purpose.

A.2.4 *Personal and spiritual formation:* The program shall provide opportunities through which the student may grow in personal faith, emotional maturity, moral integrity, and public witness. Ministerial preparation includes concern with the development of capacities—intellectual and affective, individual and corporate, ecclesial and public—that are requisite to a life of pastoral leadership.

A.2.4.1 The program shall provide for spiritual, academic, and vocational counseling and careful reflection on ministerial roles such as leader, guide, and servant of the faith community.

A.2.4.2 The program shall provide opportunities to assist students in developing commitment to Christian faith and life (e.g., expressions of justice, leadership development, the devotional life, evangelistic witness) in ways consistent with the overall goal and purpose of the institution's MDiv program.

A.2.5 *Capacity for ministerial and public leadership:* The program shall provide theological reflection on and education for the practice of ministry. These activities should cultivate the capacity for leadership in both ecclesial and public contexts.

A.2.5.1 The program shall provide for courses in the areas of ministry practice and shall ensure a constructive relationship among courses dealing primarily with the practice of ministry and courses dealing primarily with other subjects.

A.2.5.2 The program shall specifically provide for training in professional and ministerial ethics.

A.2.5.3 The program shall provide opportunities for education through supervised experiences in ministry. These experiences should be of sufficient duration and intensity to provide opportunity to gain expertise in the tasks of ministerial leadership within both the congregation and the broader public context and to reflect on inter-related theological, cultural, and experiential learning.

A.2.5.4 Qualified persons shall be selected as field supervisors and trained in supervisory methods and the educational expectations of the institution.

A.2.5.5 The institution shall have established procedures for selection, development, evaluation, and termination of supervised ministry settings.

A.3 Educational resources and learning strategies

A.3.1 Location

A.3.1.1 MDiv education has a complex goal: the personal, vocational, spiritual, and academic formation of the student. Because of the importance of a comprehensive community of learning, the MDiv cannot be viewed simply as an accumulation of courses or of individual independent work. The location, or learning environment, can occur in multiple patterns that include, but are not limited to, in-person faculty-student instructional contact on a campus or extension site, online/technologically mediated forms of instruction, supervised ministry practice, and formats that blend instructional modalities. Institutions shall clearly articulate the manner in which they provide the learning environment or supportive context for effective, comprehensive, theological education. An institution shall demonstrate that its students are engaged in a community of learning whereby faculty and students have significant opportunities for interaction, peer learning, development of pastoral skills, supervised experiences of ministry, and growth in personal, spiritual formation.

A.3.1.2 The institution shall provide instruction in a manner and at locations that facilitate the achievement of stated degree-program learning outcomes, shall state the rationale for the location(s) or learning environment(s) utilized, and shall devise a suitable means of assessment for evaluating the effectiveness of its location(s) or learning environment(s) to ensure that its students achieve the learning outcomes stipulated for the MDiv degree program.

A.3.1.3 Because MDiv education expects regular and substantive student-faculty interaction to achieve the stipulated learning outcomes, this interaction requires that at least one year of full-time academic study or its equivalent shall be completed at the main campus of the school awarding the degree or at an extension site of the institution that has been approved for MDiv degree-granting status. An exception may be granted if a school can demonstrate how its educational design and delivery system accomplishes the learning outcomes associated with residential theological study.

A.3.1.4 If an institution has Board approval for MDiv degree-program requirements to be completed in approved extension sites or by means of distance learning, the institution must be able to demonstrate how students access the community of learning, education for skills particular to this degree, and formational elements of the program.

A.3.1.5 Courses should be provided on the institution's main campus, on an approved branch campus or approved extension site, or in an approved distance education program that provides access to appropriate resources of faculty, library, and a community of learners pursuing a similar program of study.

A.3.1.6 A limited number of courses may be taken as independent study or directed research.

A.3.1.7 The institution shall have established procedures and policies regarding supervised ministry practice, independent study, and directed research. These procedures and policies shall indicate the means the institution uses to assess the educational effectiveness of these forms of education.

A.3.2 Duration

A.3.2.1 In order to fulfill the broad educational and formational goals of the MDiv, an MDiv program shall require a minimum of three academic years of full-time work or its equivalent.

A.3.2.2 All course credits applied toward degree requirements should be earned within 10 years of the awarding of the degree.

A.3.3 Distinctive resources needed

A.3.3.1 The MDiv degree requires the resources identified in the *General Institutional Standards*. In addition, MDiv students shall have access to community life that provides informal educational experiences, a sustaining religious fellowship, and adequate opportunity for reflection upon the meaning of faith in its relation to education for ministry. MDiv education is enhanced by faculty and community resources that support the goals of general education for ministerial leadership.

A.3.3.2 Faculty

A.3.3.2.1 Faculty shall relate the insights of their disciplines to the practice of ministry and shall be attentive to students' spiritual development and professional growth.

A.3.3.2.2 Faculty resources should include some persons who are currently engaged in parish, congregational, or specialized ministerial leadership.

A.3.3.2.3 Faculty shall be of adequate number, shall demonstrate instructional skills, and shall possess sufficient diversity of perspective to achieve the degree-program goals.

A.3.3.3 Community resources

A.3.3.3.1 The theological institution shall maintain a vital relationship with the religious community or communities to which it is related and other support systems, both to ensure that students have meaningful ministry contexts in which to work and to facilitate the placement of graduates.

A.3.3.3.2 The theological institution should maintain an open and mutually enhancing relationship with other theological institutions, universities, professional schools, and social agencies insofar as that relationship contributes to the accomplishment of the program's goals.

A.4 Admission

A.4.1 The MDiv is a postbaccalaureate degree. Admission requirements shall include (1) a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a US agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or approved by a Canadian provincial quality assurance agency, or the demonstrated educational equivalent of an accredited or approved North American baccalaureate degree; (2) evidence of the commitment and qualities desired for pastoral leadership; and (3) the academic ability to engage in graduate education.

A.4.2 As many as 15 percent of the students in the MDiv degree program may be admitted without possession of the baccalaureate degree or its educational equivalent. An institution admitting persons without a baccalaureate degree or its educational equivalent shall demonstrate that its process and criteria for evaluating academic ability are educationally appropriate and rigorous.

Basic Programs Oriented Toward Ministerial Leadership

Standard B Master of Arts in [specialized ministry] (MA in [specialized ministry]), or Master of [specialized ministry] (MRE, MCE, MPS, etc.)

B.1 Purpose, goals, learning outcomes, and educational assessment

B.1.1 Purpose of the degree

B.1.1.1 The primary purpose of these graduate-level professional degrees is to equip persons for competent leadership in some form of specialized ministry in congregations and other settings. These degrees are organized in three groups or broad areas of specialization:

Classification I: Religious Educational Leadership (including the Master of Religious Education [MRE], the Master of Christian Education [MCE], the Master of Arts in Religious Education [MA in Religious Education], and the Master of Arts in Christian Education [MA in Christian Education])

Classification II: Master of Arts in [specialized ministry] (MA in [specialized ministry]), including areas such as youth or senior ministry, counseling, social or ethnic ministries, or missiology

Classification III: Master [of Arts] in Pastoral Studies (MAPS, MPS) for congregational/parish ministry or service with a general or specialized focus

B.1.2 Primary goals of the program

B.1.2.1 Primary goals for this kind of degree program include (1) the capacity for critical and constructive theological reflection regarding the content and processes of the areas of specialized ministry; (2) skill in the design, implementation, and assessment of ministry in these specialized areas; (3) an understanding of the various disciplines that undergird the area of specialized ministry; and (4) growth in personal and spiritual maturity.

B.1.2.2 Because these programs may vary considerably with the size of the institution and the specialized ministry practices of the denominations or religious communities

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to which the theological school relates, each program shall clearly identify the ministerial roles that graduates of the degree might assume and shall articulate the particular educational goals of the degree program.

B.1.3 Learning outcomes

B.1.3.1 The primary goals of the program shall be further delineated as demonstrable learning outcomes congruent with the institution's mission and purpose. Institutions shall demonstrate that students have achieved the goals or learning outcomes of the degree program by means of direct and indirect evidence of student learning.

B.1.3.2 These specific, learning outcomes should shape and inform the design of all courses, supervised ministry experiences, formation activities, and other instructional strategies to establish a coherent and integrated curriculum for the degree program.

B.1.4 Educational assessment

B.1.4.1 The institution offering one of these degrees shall articulate the assessment strategy and criteria by which it regularly evaluates the educational effectiveness of the degree program. The institution shall determine the extent to which students have achieved the stated goals of the degree program by the use of both direct and indirect evidence.

B.1.4.2 The institution shall also maintain ongoing assessment by which it determines the extent to which the degree program is meeting the needs of students and the institution's overall goals for the program, including measures such as the percentage of students who complete the program and the percentage of graduates who find placement appropriate to their vocational intentions.

B.2 Program content

B.2.1 Degree programs oriented toward specialized ministerial leadership should provide instruction in the wide range of theological disciplines as well as those disciplines critical for the practice of the specialized ministry. Learning outcomes shall encompass the instructional areas of religious heritage, cultural context, personal and spiritual formation, and capacity for ministerial and public leadership in the designated area of specialization. Each of the degree-program requirements shall be further refined into specific, demonstrable learning outcomes that are congruent with the institution's mission and purpose.

B.2.2 *Religious heritage:* The program shall provide instruction in the religious heritage, including Scripture, theology, and history of the tradition.

B.2.3 *Cultural context:* The program shall provide instructional settings and opportunities for students to gain understanding of the context of the specialization in the broader range of

ministerial practice and the purposes of the church and to develop appropriate understandings of the broader social context in which the specialized ministry is performed, including diverse cultural, religious, and linguistic contexts of ministry.

B.2.4 *Personal and spiritual formation:* The program shall provide opportunities through which the student may grow in personal faith, emotional maturity, moral integrity (including personal, professional, and ethical standards), and public witness.

B.2.5 *Specialization:* The program shall provide structured opportunities for students to gain understanding and skill in practice related to the areas of specialization, to acquire the capacity to design and maintain effective practices and programs in the areas of the specialty, and to develop skill in assessing the efforts and contributions of the specialized ministry.

B.2.5.1 The program shall provide students with supervised experiences in the area of the ministry specialization. These experiences should be of sufficient duration and intensity to provide opportunity to gain expertise in the tasks of ministerial leadership and to reflect on the interrelated theological, cultural, and experiential learning.

B.2.5.2 The theological school shall select qualified persons as field supervisors and train them in supervisory methods and the educational expectations of the institution. Schools shall also have a procedure for selection, development, evaluation, and termination of supervised ministry settings.

B.2.5.3 In a program of study that might lead to licensure or certification by a professional or ecclesiastical authorizing authority, practica and other requirements should conform to generally accepted standards of the area of specialty.

B.2.5.4 In a program of study for a Classification I degree, the theological school shall provide structured opportunities for students to gain skill in the understanding and practice of educational areas of study, including history and philosophy of education, teaching and learning, administration, and the behavioral and social sciences.

B.2.5.5 In a program of study for a Classification III degree, the school shall provide courses in pastoral formation that are oriented toward the practice of ministry.

B.3 Educational resources and learning strategies

B.3.1 Location

B.3.1.1 Because of the importance of a comprehensive community of learning, the professional MA cannot be viewed simply as an accumulation of courses or of individual independent work. The location, or learning environment, can occur in multiple patterns that include, but are not limited to, in-person faculty-student instructional

contact on an approved campus or approved extension site, online/technologically mediated forms of instruction, supervised ministry practice, and formats that blend instructional modalities. Institutions shall clearly articulate the manner in which they provide the learning environment or supportive context for effective, comprehensive, theological education. An institution shall demonstrate that its students are engaged in a community of learning whereby faculty and students have opportunities for regular and substantive interaction; peer learning; development of ministry skills; supervised experiences of ministry; and growth in personal, spiritual formation.

B.3.1.2 The institution shall provide instruction in a manner and at locations that facilitate the achievement of stated degree-program learning outcomes, shall state the rationale for the location(s) or learning environment(s) utilized, and shall devise a suitable means of assessment for evaluating the effectiveness of its location(s) or learning environment(s) to ensure that its students achieve the learning outcomes stipulated for the professional MA degree program.

B.3.1.3 Because professional MA education expects regular and substantive student-faculty interaction to achieve the stipulated learning outcomes, this interaction requires that at least one-third of the required credits for the degree shall be completed at the main campus of the school awarding the degree or at an extension site of the institution that has been approved for professional MA degree-granting status. An exception may be granted if a school can demonstrate how its educational design and delivery system accomplishes the learning outcomes associated with residential theological study.

B.3.1.4 If an institution has Board approval for professional MA degree-program requirements to be completed in extension centers or by means of distance learning, the institution must be able to demonstrate how students access the community of learning, education for skills particular to this degree, and formational elements of the program.

B.3.1.5 Courses should be provided on the institution's main campus, on an approved branch campus or approved extension site, or in an approved distance education program that provides access to appropriate resources of faculty, library, and community of learners pursuing a similar program of study.

B.3.1.6 A limited number of courses may be taken as independent study or directed research.

B.3.1.7 The institution shall have established procedures and policies regarding supervised ministry practice, independent study, and directed research. These procedures

and policies shall indicate the means the institution uses to assess the educational effectiveness of these forms of education.

B.3.2 Duration

B.3.2.1 In order to fulfill the broad educational and formational goals of the professional MA, the program shall require a minimum of two academic years of full-time work or its equivalent.

B.3.2.2 All course credits applied toward degree requirements should be earned within 10 years of the awarding of the degree.

B.3.3 Distinctive resources needed

B.3.3.1 Adequate faculty, library resources, and support services shall be available to sustain students in these programs. Where specializations are offered in specific disciplines, more than one faculty member shall teach in the discipline, and special attention must be given to the faculty and library resources in those areas.

B.3.3.1.1 Faculty shall relate the insights of their disciplines to the practice of ministry and shall be attentive to students' spiritual development and professional growth.

B.3.3.1.2 Faculty resources should include some persons who are currently engaged in parish, congregational, or specialized ministerial leadership.

B.3.3.1.3 Faculty shall be of adequate number, shall demonstrate instructional skills, and shall possess sufficient diversity of perspective to achieve the degree-program goals.

B.3.3.2 Students should be provided with guidance and support for the particular vocational decisions related to the purposes of their programs.

B.3.3.2.1 The theological institution shall maintain a vital relationship with the religious community or communities to which it is related and other support systems, both to ensure that students have meaningful ministry contexts in which to work and to facilitate the placement of graduates.

B.3.3.2.2 The theological institution should maintain an open and mutually enhancing relationship with other theological institutions, universities, professional schools, and social agencies insofar as that relationship contributes to the accomplishment of the program's goals.

B.4 Admission

B.4.1 The professional master's program grants a postbaccalaureate degree. Admission requirements shall include (1) a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education accredited by an agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or approved by a Canadian provincial quality assurance agency, or the demonstrated educational equivalent of an accredited or approved North American baccalaureate degree; (2) evidence of the commitment and qualities desired for ministerial leadership; and (3) the academic ability to engage in graduate education.

B.4.2 As many as 15 percent of the students in the professional master's degree program may be admitted without possession of the baccalaureate degree or its educational equivalent. Admission of such applicants should be restricted to persons with life experience that has prepared them for theological study at the graduate level. An institution admitting persons without a baccalaureate degree or its educational equivalent shall demonstrate that its process and criteria for evaluating academic ability are educationally appropriate and rigorous.

Basic Programs Oriented Toward Ministerial Leadership

Standard C Master of Church Music (MCM) Master of Sacred Music (MSM) Master of Music in Church Music (MM in Church Music) Master of Arts in Church Music (MA in Church Music)

C.1 Purpose, goals, learning outcomes, and educational assessment

C.1.1 Purpose of the degree

The purpose of these master's-level degrees in church music is to equip persons for competent leadership in church or sacred music in congregational and other settings.

C.1.2 Primary goals of the program

Primary educational goals of the program include (1) capacity for constructive theological reflection, (2) an understanding of music theory and history, (3) competence in an applied music performance area, (4) skill in conducting and leadership of musical ensembles, (5) knowledge of church music literature, (6) capacity to lead a comprehensive program of church music education, and (7) growth in personal and spiritual maturity.

C.1.3 Learning outcomes

C.1.3.1 The primary goals of the program shall be further delineated as demonstrable learning outcomes congruent with the institution's mission and purpose. Institutions shall demonstrate that students have achieved the goals or learning outcomes of the degree program by means of direct and indirect evidence of student learning.

C.1.3.2 These specific learning outcomes should shape and inform the design of all courses, supervised ministry experiences, formation activities, and other instructional strategies to establish a coherent and integrated curriculum for the degree program.

C.1.4 Educational assessment

C.1.4.1 The institution offering one of these degrees shall articulate the assessment strategy and criteria by which it regularly evaluates the educational effectiveness of the degree program. The institution shall determine the extent to which students have

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achieved the stated goals of the degree program by the use of both direct and indirect evidence.

C.1.4.2 The institution shall also maintain ongoing assessment by which it determines the extent to which the degree program is meeting the needs of students and the institution's overall goals for the program, including measures such as the percentage of students who complete the program and the percentage of graduates who find placement appropriate to their vocational intentions.

C.2 Program content

C.2.1 Degree programs oriented toward leadership in music ministry should provide instruction in the wide range of theological disciplines as well as those disciplines critical for the practice of the music ministry. Learning outcomes shall encompass the instructional areas of religious heritage, cultural context, personal and spiritual formation, musical arts, and music ministry leadership. Each of the degree requirements shall be further refined into specific, demonstrable learning outcomes that are congruent with the institution's mission and purpose.

C.2.1.1 *Religious heritage*: The program shall provide basic instruction in Scripture, theology, and history of the tradition, including worship, liturgy, and hymnology.

C.2.1.2 *Cultural context*: The program shall provide instructional settings and opportunities for students to gain understanding of the context of the music ministry in the broader range of ministerial practice, and to develop appropriate understanding of the broader social context in which a music ministry is exercised.

C.2.1.3 *Personal and spiritual formation*: The program shall provide opportunities through which the student may grow in personal faith, emotional maturity, and moral integrity, the latter including the appropriation of personal and professional standards of conduct.

C.2.1.4 *Musical arts*: The program shall provide graduate-level instruction in the various musical arts and training in performance skill areas. For US schools, the ATS Board of Commissioners recommends that the degree program follow the guidelines of the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) for the musical arts requirements in master's-level work. For Canadian schools, the ATS Board of Commissioners recommends that the degree program require the BMus (Bachelor of Music) degree from an institution of higher education that is approved by a provincial quality assurance agency.

C.2.1.5 *Music ministry leadership*: The program shall include opportunities for students to gain skill as conductors of musical ensembles and leaders of worship, preferably in supervised ministry contexts. These opportunities should reflect concern for the

relationship of the churches' worship and ministry as well as awareness of the intercultural and cross-cultural nature of ministry in North American society.

C.3 Educational resources and learning strategies

C.3.1 Location

C.3.1.1 As a degree preparing persons for ministerial leadership in church music, this program requires a comprehensive community of teachers and peers who have opportunity for common experiences over time, as well as access to studio and ensemble resources and the range of courses in musical arts and theological studies. The location, or learning environment, can occur in multiple patterns that include, but are not limited to, in-person faculty-student instructional contact on a campus or extension site, online or technologically mediated forms of instruction, supervised ministry practice, and formats that blend instructional modalities. Institutions shall clearly articulate the manner in which they provide the learning environment or supportive context for effective, comprehensive theological and musical education. An institution shall demonstrate that its students are engaged in a community of learning whereby faculty and students have opportunities for regular and substantive interaction; peer learning; development of music ministry skills; supervised experiences of music ministry; and growth in personal, spiritual formation.

C.3.1.2 The institution shall provide instruction in a manner and at locations that facilitate the achievement of stated degree-program learning outcomes, shall state the rationale for the location(s) or learning environment(s) utilized, and shall devise a suitable means of assessment for evaluating the effectiveness of its location(s) or learning environment(s) to ensure that its students achieve the learning outcomes stipulated for the music master's degree program.

C.3.1.3 Because professional master's-level education expects regular and substantive student-faculty interaction to achieve the stipulated learning outcomes, this interaction requires that at least two-thirds of the required credits for the degree shall be completed at the main campus of the school awarding the degree or at an extension site of the institution that has been approved for professional MA degree-granting status. An exception may be granted if a school can demonstrate how its educational design and delivery system accomplishes the learning outcomes associated with residential study.

C.3.1.4 If an institution has Board approval for degree-program requirements to be completed in extension centers or by means of distance learning, the institution must be able to demonstrate how students access the community of learning, education for skills particular to this degree, and formational elements of the program.

C.3.1.5 Instruction may be offered on an institution's main campus, branch campus, or extension site, or through a distance-education program subject to Commission *Policies and Procedures* and Board of Commissioners' approval.

C.3.1.6 The institution shall have established procedures and policies regarding supervised ministry practice, independent study, and directed research. These procedures and policies shall indicate the means the institution uses to assess the educational effectiveness of these forms of education.

C.3.2 Duration

C.3.2.1 This degree program requires the equivalent of two years of full-time academic study.

C.3.2.2 All course credits applied toward degree requirements should be earned within 10 years of the awarding of the degree.

C.3.3 Distinctive resources needed

C.3.3.1 In addition to general theological faculty resources, this program requires sufficient, qualified faculty who can provide instruction in the range of musical arts disciplines, performance areas, conducting, and ensemble leadership; and who can promote integration of music specialization within the broader context of ministry.

C.3.3.2 Schools offering this degree shall have adequate facilities for graduate instruction in the musical arts, such as appropriate studio and practice space.

C.3.3.3 These programs also require library collections that include musical scores, recordings, books, periodicals, and other media that support graduate instruction and faculty research in the various disciplines related to the musical arts.

C.4 Admission

C.4.1 Persons seeking admission to this program should (a) possess a baccalaureate degree from a program approved by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM) or alternatively the BMus degree from an institution of higher education that is approved by a Canadian provincial quality assurance agency or (b) meet the standards of such a degree in either the United States or Canada or the educational equivalent of a North American baccalaureate music degree; or (c) take instruction without graduate credit until the competencies assumed by (a) or (b) are met.

C.4.2 Member institutions shall require qualifying or placement exams of all graduate applicants. If deficiencies are indicated, remedial work may be required without graduate credit.

Basic Programs Oriented Toward General Theological Studies

Standard D Master of Arts (MA) Master of Arts [academic discipline] Master of Theological Studies (MTS)

D.1 Purpose, goals, learning outcomes, and educational assessment

D.1.1 Purpose of the degree

D.1.1.1 The purpose of these degree programs is to provide a basic understanding of theological disciplines for further graduate study or for general educational purposes. The specific nomenclature for these degree programs, which are governed by the same Standards, may be chosen according to an institution's specific purpose in offering the program or to reflect the needs and interests of the students enrolled.

D.1.2 Primary goals of the program

D.1.2.1 The goals an institution adopts for these degree programs should include the attainment of a survey knowledge of various theological disciplines, or focused knowledge in a specific discipline, or interdisciplinary knowledge. Achievement of student learning outcomes for these degrees shall contribute to meeting these programmatic goals.

D.1.3 Learning outcomes

D.1.3.1 The institution shall identify demonstrable student learning outcomes for these degrees and shall state those outcomes in terms of how student knowledge and outlook will change as a result of having completed the degree.

D.1.4 Educational assessment

D.1.4.1 The institution offering the degree shall articulate the assessment strategy and criteria by which it regularly evaluates the educational effectiveness of the degree program. The institution shall determine the extent to which students have achieved the stated goals of the degree program by the use of both direct and indirect evidence.

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D.1.4.2 The institution shall also maintain ongoing assessment by which it determines the extent to which the degree program is meeting the needs of students and the institution's overall goals for the program, including measures such as the percentage of students who complete the program and the percentage of graduates who find placement appropriate to their vocational intentions.

D.2 Program content

D.2.1 Depending on the goals of the specific degree, the program of study shall include exposure to the broad range of theological disciplines or to the focused study of a theological discipline in depth and in the context of the broader theological disciplines. A predominant number of courses should be academic rather than professional in focus, and the summative requirement shall reflect the academic goals of the degree.

D.2.2 In addition to course work, these degrees should require a concluding exercise that allows for a summative evaluation; this exercise may be a thesis in the area of concentration, a comprehensive examination, or another summative process of evaluation.

D.2.3 The study of languages shall be required if a level of competence in a language is integral to the specific degree program.

D.3 Educational resources and learning strategies

D.3.1 Location

D.3.1.1 Courses should be provided on the institution's main campus; on an approved branch campus or approved extension site; or in an approved distance education program that provides access to appropriate resources of faculty, library, and community of learners pursuing similar programs of study. An institution shall demonstrate that its students are engaged in a community of learning whereby faculty and students have opportunities for regular and substantive interaction.

D.3.1.2 If requirements can be completed on branch campuses, at extension centers, or by means of distance learning, the institution must be able to demonstrate how the community of learning, education for skills particular to this degree, and formational elements of the program are made available to students.

D.3.1.3 A limited number of courses may be taken as independent study or directed research.

D.3.2 Duration

D.3.2.1 Normally these degrees require two academic years of full-time study or the equivalent in order to fulfill the broad educational goals of the program. In some cases,

and in exception to Standard ES, section ES.7.4; however, persons admitted with some advanced theological study or with prior extensive undergraduate studies in religion and/or other appropriate foundational areas may complete the program in one year of course work, in addition to the thesis, comprehensive examination, and/or other summative process of evaluation.

D.3.3 Distinctive resources needed

D.3.3.1 In general, adequate faculty, library resources, and support services shall be available to sustain students in these programs. Where concentrations are offered in specific disciplines, more than one faculty member shall teach in the discipline, and special attention must be given to the faculty and library resources in those areas.

D.3.3.2 Students should be provided with guidance and support for the particular vocational decisions related to the purposes of their programs.

D.4 Admission

D.4.1 Admission to any of these degree programs requires a baccalaureate degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a US agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or approved by a Canadian provincial quality assurance agency, or the demonstrated educational equivalent of an accredited or approved North American baccalaureate degree.

D.4.2 Educational equivalency for a baccalaureate degree shall be determined by the institution. The institution shall demonstrate that its means for determining equivalency require formal postsecondary education consisting of general and specialized studies comparable to the baccalaureate degree. Students should have the interests, aptitudes, and personal qualities necessary for the particular application of the degree they are seeking.

D.4.3 Admission to these degrees should be offered to students whose background and academic records indicate the ability to engage in graduate-level study for academic pursuits or personal development.

Advanced Programs Oriented Toward Ministerial Leadership

Standard E Doctor of Ministry (DMin)

E.1 Purpose, goals, learning outcomes, and educational assessment

E.1.1 Purpose of the degree

E.1.1.1 The purpose of the Doctor of Ministry degree is to enhance the practice of ministry for persons who hold the MDiv or its educational equivalent and who have engaged in substantial ministerial leadership.

E.1.2 Primary goals of the program

E.1.2.1 The goals an institution adopts for the DMin should include an advanced understanding of the nature and purposes of ministry, enhanced competencies in pastoral analysis and ministerial skills, the integration of these dimensions into the theologically reflective practice of ministry, new knowledge about the practice of ministry, continued growth in spiritual maturity, and development and appropriation of a personal and professional ethic with focused study on ethical standards and mature conduct in the profession.

E.1.2.2 Programs may be designed to advance the general practice of ministry in its many forms or to advance expertise in a specialized area of ministerial practice (e.g., pastoral care, preaching, missions, leadership, organizational administration, multicultural ministries).

E.1.2.3 The achievement of student learning outcomes for the DMin degree shall contribute to meeting these programmatic goals.

E.1.3 Learning outcomes

E.1.3.1 The institution shall specify demonstrable learning outcomes for the Doctor of Ministry degree that demonstrate an advanced competency in the practice of ministry, give evidence of being informed by analytic and ministerial research, and show the integration of enhanced knowledge with growth in one's ministerial capacity and spiritual maturity.

NOTE: This Degree Program Standard assumes member schools also use and follow the *Educational Standard* (ES), which applies to all degree programs and which addresses such issues as nomenclature (ES.1), extension education (ES.3), distance education (ES.4), and assessment (ES.6).

E.1.4 Educational assessment

E.1.4.1 The institution offering the DMin shall articulate the assessment strategy and criteria by which it regularly evaluates the educational effectiveness of the degree program. Institutions offering the DMin degree shall be able to demonstrate the extent to which students have met the goals of the degree program through student performance in courses, ministry experience, and a final, summative project reflecting theological insight into the practice of ministry.

E.1.4.1.1 The institution shall establish a system of gathering quantitative and qualitative data related to both student learning outcomes and degree-program goals, analyze the data gathered, and make revisions as necessary based on that assessment. This assessment cycle shall be ongoing, regularized, and sustainable.

E.1.4.2 The institution shall also maintain an ongoing assessment by which it determines the extent to which the degree program is meeting the needs of students and the institution's overall goals for the program, including measures such as the percentage of students who complete the program and report vocational enhancement of the practice of ministry.

E.2 Program content

E.2.1 DMin programs shall provide advanced-level study of the comprehensive range of theological disciplines that provides for

E.2.1.1 an advanced understanding and integration of ministry in relation to various theological and other related disciplines;

E.2.1.2 the formulation of a comprehensive and critical understanding of ministry in which theory and practice interactively inform and enhance each other;

E.2.1.3 the development and acquisition of skills and competencies, including methods of research, that are required for ministerial leadership at its most mature and effective level;

E.2.1.4 a contribution to the understanding and practice of ministry through the completion of a doctoral-level project that contributes new knowledge and understanding of the practice of ministry;

E.2.1.5 the fostering of spiritual, professional, and vocational competencies that enable witness to a maturing commitment to appropriate religio-moral values for faith and life; and

E.2.1.6 engagement with the diverse cultural, religious, and linguistic contexts of ministry.

E.2.2 The DMin program shall provide for varied kinds of learning, including

E.2.2.1 peer learning and evaluation as well as self-directed learning experiences;

E.2.2.2 significant integrative and interdisciplinary activities involving the various theological disciplines and careful use of the student's experience and ministerial context as a learning environment;

E.2.2.3 various opportunities for learning and using the disciplines and skills necessary for the DMin project, including sustained opportunities for study and research on an approved campus or site of the institution offering the degree; and

E.2.2.4 opportunities for personal and spiritual growth.

E.2.3 The institution shall demonstrate how the program is attentive to global awareness and engagement as well as local settings in its educational design and delivery systems, including its efforts to form a community of learners.

E.2.4 The program shall include the design and completion of a written doctoral-level project that addresses both the nature and the practice of ministry. This final summative project should be of sufficient quality that it contributes to the practice of ministry as judged by professional standards and has the potential for application in other contexts of ministry or presentation in professional forums.

E.2.4.1 The project should demonstrate the candidate's ability to identify a specific theological topic in ministry, organize an effective research model, use appropriate resources, and evaluate the results. It should also reflect the candidate's depth of theological insight in relation to ministry.

E.2.4.2 Upon completion of the doctoral project, there shall be an oral presentation and evaluation. The completed written project, with any supplemental material, should be accessioned in the institution's library.

E.3 Educational resources and learning strategies

E.3.1 Location

E.3.1.1 Because of the importance of a comprehensive community of learning, at least one-third of the course work for the degree shall be completed on an ATS Board of Commissioners-approved campus or full-degree extension site of the member institution. Upon petition by the school, the Board may grant an exception if a school can

demonstrate how the program's educational design and delivery system accomplishes the learning outcomes and program goals of the Doctor of Ministry degree. The school should be able to demonstrate for the duration of the program (a) sufficient opportunity for disciplined reflection on one's ministerial experience and needs for educational growth; (b) regular and substantive interaction of students with regular full-time faculty, appropriate adjunct faculty, and other instructional personnel; (c) extended involvement in peer learning; and (d) access to the resources of the institution, such as the library and academic and professional advising.

E.3.1.2 Where DMin course work occurs away from the main campus of the institution, the program should make effective educational use of the candidate's ministerial context.

E.3.1.3 If the institution has Board approval for the requirements to be completed in branch campuses, at extension centers, or by means of distance learning, the institution must be able to demonstrate how the community of learning, education for skills particular to the DMin degree, formational elements of the program, and educational resources are made available to students.

E.3.2 Duration

E.3.2.1 The DMin program shall require the equivalent of one full year of academic study *and* the completion of the doctoral project. Normally, the degree shall require not fewer than three nor more than six years to complete, although the Commission on Accrediting may approve alternative degree designs.

E.3.3 Distinctive resources needed

E.3.3.1 In addition to a community of peer learners that is adequate in both number and quality for advanced study, resources such as particular faculty, library, and academic support services are required for the degree.

E.3.3.2 Institutions shall have faculty and other instructional personnel in adequate numbers to staff the program and with the competencies required for the specific goals of the general or specialized programs.

E.3.3.2.1 Program administrative procedures should include full-time faculty in determining the program goals; provide for the evaluation of all participating faculty (full-time and adjunct), mentors, and supervisors; and make available opportunities for faculty development in relation to the DMin program.

E.3.3.2.2 Teaching responsibility in the DMin program for full-time faculty should be assigned in a manner comparable to that for other degree programs in that institution.

E.3.3.2.3 Whenever adjunct faculty, qualified mentors, or other personnel are employed, they shall receive appropriate orientation to the purposes and expectations of the DMin program, and their roles shall be exercised and evaluated in full collaboration with full-time faculty.

E.3.3.2.4 It is expected that faculty in the DMin program shall be committed to structuring learning experiences that are oriented to the professional practice of ministry. Whenever needed, institutions shall have effective procedures of faculty development to achieve the particular competencies required for teaching in this program.

E.3.3.3 Library resources and services shall be of sufficient kind and substance to support the DMin program and its goals. This will include access to adequate existing collections, electronic resources, services, and staffing.

E.3.3.4 The regular academic support services and resources of the institution (e.g., recruitment, admissions, academic records, academic advisement, faculty consultation, and evaluation) shall be available for the DMin program and its students.

E.4 Admission

E.4.1 Students must possess an ATS Board of Commissioners-approved MDiv or its educational equivalent from an institution of higher education accredited by a US agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or approved by a Canadian provincial quality assurance agency. Degrees from institutions outside of North America may be accepted provided schools can demonstrate that they meet the Standards of the Board-approved degrees for admission. MDiv equivalency is defined as 72 graduate semester hours or comparable graduate credits in other systems that represent broad-based work in theology, biblical studies, and the arts of ministry and that include a master's degree and significant ministerial leadership. Ministerial experience alone is not considered the equivalent of or a substitute for the master's degree.

E.4.2 Educational equivalency for these master's degrees shall be determined by the institution through appropriately documented assessment that demonstrates that students have the knowledge, competence, or skills that would normally be provided by specific MDiv-level courses. The process, procedures, and criteria for such determination shall be published in the institution's public documents.

E.4.3 Applicants to the DMin degree program should have at least three years of experience in ministry subsequent to the first graduate theological degree, and, as part of the program goal, show evidence of capacity for an advanced level of competence and reflection in the practice of ministry beyond that of the master's level. However, as many as 20 percent of the students in the DMin degree program may be enrolled without the requisite three years of ministry experience at the time of admission, provided that the institution can demonstrate objective means for determining that these persons have been prepared by other ministry experience for the level of competence and reflection appropriate for advanced, professional ministerial studies.

E.4.4 If an institution offers specialized DMin programs, it should set appropriate standards for admission to such programs.

Advanced Programs Oriented Toward Ministerial Leadership

Standard F Doctor of Education (EdD)

F.1 Purpose, goals, learning outcomes, and educational assessment

F.1.1 Purpose of the degree

F.1.1.1 The purpose of the Doctor of Education degree is to equip persons for leadership positions in education and in teaching and research.

F.1.2 Primary goals of the program

F.1.2.1 The goals an institution adopts for this program should include mastery of educational disciplines, graduate-level understanding of theological disciplines, and capacity to engage in administration, teaching, and research.

F.1.3 Learning outcomes

F.1.3.1 The primary goals of the program shall be further delineated as demonstrable learning outcomes congruent with the institution's mission and purpose. The institution shall demonstrate that students have achieved the goals or learning outcomes of the degree program by means of direct and indirect evidence of student learning.

F.1.3.2 The institution shall specify learning outcomes that reflect the goals of the program and demonstrate advanced competency in the discipline of religious education and capacity to conduct original research and writing that advances understanding of the discipline.

F.1.3.3 These specific, learning outcomes should shape and inform the design of all courses and other instructional strategies to establish a coherent and integrated curriculum for the degree program.

F.1.4 Educational assessment

F.1.4.1 The institution offering this degree shall articulate the assessment strategy and criteria by which it regularly evaluates the educational effectiveness of the degree program. The institution shall determine the extent to which students have

NOTE: This Degree Program Standard assumes member schools also use and follow the *Educational Standard* (ES), which applies to all degree programs and which addresses such issues as nomenclature (ES.1), extension education (ES.3), distance education (ES.4), and assessment (ES.6).

achieved the stated goals of the degree program by the use of both direct and indirect evidence.

F.1.4.2 The institution shall also maintain ongoing assessment by which it determines the extent to which the degree program is meeting the needs of students and the institution's overall goals for the program, including measures such as the percentage of students who complete the program and the percentage of graduates who find placement appropriate to their vocational intentions.

F.2 Program content

F.2.1 The program shall provide for advanced study in several areas, including theological disciplines; behavioral sciences (e.g., human development, learning theory, counseling theory); the social sciences (e.g., regarding culture and context in which religious communities function, social change); philosophy of education; and measurement and evaluation. The program shall require a comprehensive examination in these areas before proceeding to the writing phase.

F.2.2 The program shall include a culminating dissertation, written project, or report of field research reflecting a high quality of research skill applied to some problem or area of religious education.

F.2.3 The program shall require demonstrated competence in modern languages, statistics, or other research tools determined by the student's research or professional needs.

F.3 Educational resources and learning strategies

F.3.1 Location

F.3.1.1 Courses, seminars, and colloquia for doctoral degrees shall normally be completed on the main campus of the institution offering the degree. Any petition for exception shall demonstrate how its educational design and delivery system accomplishes the learning outcomes associated with doctoral residential theological study. If course work completed at other institutions is to be accepted for credit in an ATS Board of Commissioners-approved doctoral program, that work shall have been eligible for credit in the doctoral program(s) offered by the institution at which it was completed or other advanced programs primarily oriented toward theological research and teaching.

F.3.2 Duration

F.3.2.1 The program normally requires the equivalent of two years of full-time academic study, plus the time needed to complete a doctoral thesis or dissertation.

F.3.3 Distinctive resources needed

F.3.3.1 There shall be faculty members who are specialists in the field of religious education, including a sufficient number in the cognate theological disciplines that are integral to the EdD program. Faculty shall have proven competence in teaching and research, with established reputations for scholarship. They should have published the results of their own scholarly work and be currently engaged in productive research.

F.3.3.2 The program should have a community of peer learners that is adequate in number and quality for advanced study, a faculty with specialties in educational and theological disciplines, library holdings that reflect a breadth of bibliographic resources, ready access to sufficient material in religious education related behavioral and social sciences, and the theological disciplines to enable it to achieve its goals and objectives. It should also include or have ready access to educational technologies, educational laboratories, clinical training, and other learning media as required to accomplish its objectives.

F.4 Admission

F.4.1 Students must possess an ATS Commission on Accrediting-approved MA/MRE degree or comparable degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a US agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or approved by a Canadian provincial quality assurance agency, or the demonstrated educational equivalent of an accredited or approved North American MA/MRE degree.

F.4.2 Applicants must also demonstrate promise of contribution to the educational leadership in churches and denominations.

Advanced Programs Oriented Toward Ministerial Leadership

Standard G Doctor of [area of specialization] including the DEdMin and DMiss

G.1 Purpose, goals, learning outcomes, and educational assessment

G.1.1 Purpose of the degree

G.1.1.1 The purpose of the Doctor of [area of specialization] is to advance theologically competent leadership in a global context by equipping students with advanced knowledge and skill sets that integrate the study of theology with a variety of cognate disciplines that enhance advanced ministerial practice. These degrees are organized in two groups or broad areas of specialization:

Classification I: Religious Educational Leadership, including the DEdMin

Classification II: Ministry and the Human Sciences, including the DMiss

G.1.1.2 Classification I programs require two years of additional study beyond the appropriate ATS Board of Commissioners-approved master's degree (e.g., Master of Arts or Master of Arts in Religious Education), or, as necessary, in the cognate discipline or field of study, plus the time needed to complete the doctoral project, thesis, or culminating dissertation research project.

G.1.1.3 Classification II programs require two years of additional study beyond the appropriate ATS Board of Commissioners-approved master's degree (e.g., Master of Divinity, or its equivalent, or in an appropriate theological, missiological, or pastoral discipline), or, as necessary, in the cognate discipline or field of study plus the time needed to complete the doctoral project, thesis, or culminating dissertation research project.

G.1.2 Primary goals of the program

G.1.2.1 The primary goals an institution adopts for these degree programs shall include (1) competence in theological disciplines at the graduate level within culturally diverse contexts of ministry as relevant or pertinent to the area of specialization; (2) advanced capacity for critical and constructive theological reflection regarding

NOTE: This Degree Program Standard assumes member schools also use and follow the *Educational Standard* (ES), which applies to all degree programs and which addresses such issues as nomenclature (ES.1), extension education (ES.3), distance education (ES.4), and assessment (ES.6).

content and practices of the various disciplines that undergird the areas of specialization; (3) skill in the design, implementation, and assessment of ministry in the area of specialization, including ministerial effectiveness; (4) development and appropriation of a personal and professional ethic with focused study on ethical standards and mature conduct in the profession; (5) advanced understanding of the various disciplines that undergird the area of specialization; and (6) enhanced opportunities for growth in spiritual maturity. (See also G.2, Program content.)

G.1.2.2 Programs may be designed to advance expertise in a specialized area of ministerial practice (e.g., pastoral care, missiology, religious education, leadership, organizational administration, and intercultural ministries). Each degree shall clearly articulate the particular educational and professional goals appropriate to the degree specialization.

G.1.2.3 Classification I and II degrees require acquisition of skills and competencies for effective practice of ministry as well as capacity to engage in administration, teaching, and research, particularly in the area of specialization, and shall require critical appropriation and respectful engagement of diverse cultural contexts.

G.1.2.4 In addition to the above (G.1.2.3), Classification I and II degrees may require acquisition of necessary language skills.

G.1.2.5 The achievement of student learning outcomes for these degrees shall contribute to meeting the programmatic goals for the appropriate degree specialization.

G.1.3 Learning outcomes

G.1.3.1 The institution shall specify demonstrable learning outcomes for the Doctor of [area of specialization] degree that demonstrate an advanced competency in the practice of ministry; give evidence of being informed by analytic, ministerial, and disciplinary research; and show the integration of these areas of advanced knowledge with opportunities for growth in one's ministerial capacity and spiritual maturity.

G.1.3.2 Institutions shall demonstrate that students have achieved the goals or learning outcomes of the degree program by means of direct and indirect evidence of student learning, including quantitative and qualitative assessments.

G.1.3.3 The institution shall demonstrate the doctoral candidate's ability to identify a specific theological topic in ministry, organize an effective research model, use appropriate resources, and evaluate the results, reflecting depth of theological insight in relation to ministry and leadership in the context of the cognate disciplines.

G.1.3.4 These specific, learning outcomes should shape and inform the design of all courses, relevant competency-based experiences, and formative and other instructional strategies to establish a coherent and integrated curriculum for the degree program.

G.1.4 Educational assessment

G.1.4.1 The institution offering the Doctor of [area of specialization] degree shall articulate the assessment strategy and criteria by which it regularly evaluates the educational effectiveness of the degree program.

G.1.4.2 The institution shall provide evidence that demonstrates the extent to which students have met the goals of the degree program through the design and completion of a doctoral thesis, research project, or dissertation that demonstrates high levels of research skill applied to a ministerial context or a problem in the field of study and shall be of sufficient quality that, judged by professional standards, has the potential for application in other contexts of ministry or presentation in professional forums.

G.1.4.3 Upon completion of the doctoral thesis, research project, or dissertation, there shall be an oral presentation and evaluation. The completed written project, with any supplemental material, should be accessioned in the institution's library.

G.1.4.4 The institution shall also maintain an ongoing assessment by which it determines the extent to which the degree program is meeting the needs of students and the institution's overall goals for the program, including measures such as the percentage of students who complete the program and report vocational enhancement of the practice of ministry or leadership in the field.

G.2 Program content

G.2.1 The Doctor of [area of specialization] shall provide advanced level study of the comprehensive range of disciplines appropriate to the areas of specialization that provides for

G.2.1.1 an advanced understanding and integration of ministry in relation to various theological and other related disciplines;

G.2.1.2 respectful engagement with the diverse cultural, religious, and linguistic contexts of ministry;

G.2.1.3 the formulation of a comprehensive and critical understanding of ministry leadership in which theory and practice interactively inform and enhance each other;

G.2.1.4 the fostering of spiritual, professional, ethical, and vocational competencies that witness to personal and spiritual maturity;

G.2.1.5 the development and acquisition of skills and competencies, including methods of research, that are required for ministerial leadership at its most effective level; and

G.2.1.6 the completion of a doctoral-level project that contributes new knowledge and understanding to the practice of ministry.

G.2.2 The Doctor of [area of specialization] shall provide for varied kinds of learning, including

G.2.2.1 peer learning and supervised learning, as well as self-directed learning experiences;

G.2.2.2 significant integrative and interdisciplinary activities involving the various theological disciplines and careful use of the student's experience and ministerial context as a learning environment;

G.2.2.3 various opportunities for learning and using the disciplines and skills necessary for the doctoral project, thesis, or dissertation, including sustained opportunities for study, critical thinking, and research;

G.2.2.4 opportunities for personal and spiritual reflection, self-correction, and growth; and

G.2.2.5 opportunities for ministerial engagement in culturally and racially diverse contexts.

G.2.3 The Doctor of [area of specialization] shall provide content-specific kinds of learning.

G.2.3.1 Classification I programs shall provide advanced critical and analytical study of theology, educational theory, and administration for professional application in distinct contexts; competencies necessary for research, planning and evaluation of the practice of ministerial leadership in distinct contexts; and competence and appreciation for modern languages as a research tool and a ministerial asset.

G.2.3.2 Classification II programs shall provide advanced study in social scientific disciplines (anthropology, psychology, intercultural studies, contextual studies, gender studies), history and theology (including world religions); and competence in at least one modern language other than English, or other languages relevant to social research methods.

G.3 Educational resources and learning strategies

G.3.1 Location

G.3.1.1 Because of the importance of a comprehensive community of learning, at least one-third of the course work for the Doctor of [area of specialization] shall be completed on a Board-approved campus or full-degree extension site of the member institution. Upon petition by the school, the Board may grant an exception if a school can demonstrate how the program's educational design and delivery system accomplishes the learning outcomes and program goals associated with the degree program. The school should be able to demonstrate

G.3.1.1.1 sufficient opportunity for disciplined reflection on one's ministerial experience, appropriate areas of specialization, and needs for educational growth;

G.3.1.1.2 regular and substantive interaction of the students with regular full-time faculty, appropriate adjunct faculty, and other instructional personnel;

G.3.1.1.3 extended involvement in peer learning; and

G.3.1.1.4 access to the resources of the institution, such as the library, and to academic and professional advising.

G.3.1.2 Where specialized doctoral course work occurs away from the main campus of the institution, the program should make effective educational use of the candidate's ministerial context.

G.3.1.3 If the institution has Board approval for requirements to be completed in branch campuses, at extension centers, or by means of distance learning, the institution must be able to demonstrate how the community of learning, education for skills particular to the doctoral degree, formational elements of the program, and educational resources are made available to students on location in the context of a demonstrable community of learning.

G.3.2 Duration

G.3.2.1 These degree programs shall require the equivalent of two full years of academic study plus the time needed to complete the doctoral project, thesis, or culminating dissertation research project. Normally, the degrees shall require not fewer than three nor more than six years to complete.

G.3.3 Distinctive resources needed

G.3.3.1 In addition to a community of peer learners that is adequate both in number and quality for advanced study, resources such as particular faculty, library, and academic support services are required for the degree.

G.3.3.2 Institutions shall have faculty and other instructional personnel in adequate numbers to staff the program and with the competencies required for the specific goals of the general or specialized programs.

G.3.3.2.1 Schools shall provide a core of qualified faculty with the appropriate terminal degrees in the specialized field of instruction as well as sufficient faculty governance in curriculum development and assessment of overall effectiveness of the Doctor of [area of specialization] degrees.

G.3.3.2.2 Program administrative procedures should include full-time faculty in determining the program goals; provide for the evaluation of all participating faculty (full time, adjunct, mentors, and supervisors); and make available opportunities for faculty development in relation to the Doctor of [area of specialization] degrees.

G.3.3.2.3 Whenever adjunct faculty, qualified mentors, or other personnel are employed, they shall receive written and oral orientation to the purposes and expectations of the Doctor of [area of specialization] degree, and their roles shall be exercised and evaluated in full collaboration with full-time faculty.

G.3.3.2.4 It is expected that faculty in the Doctor of [area of specialization] degree programs shall be committed to structuring learning experiences that are oriented to the professional practice of ministry. Whenever needed, institutions shall have effective procedures of faculty development to achieve the particular competencies required for teaching in this program.

G.3.3.2.5 Teaching responsibility for full-time faculty shall be assigned in a manner comparable to that for other degree programs in that institution.

G.3.3.3 Library resources and services shall be of sufficient kind and substance to support these respective Doctor of [area of specialization] degree programs and their goals. This shall include access to adequate existing collections, electronic resources, services, and staffing.

G.3.3.4 The regular academic support services and resources of the institution (e.g., recruitment, admissions, academic records, academic advisement, faculty consultation,

and evaluation) shall be available for Doctor of [area of specialization] degree programs and its students.

G.4 Admission

G.4.1 Admission to these degrees shall conform to the Standards and expectations of the ATS Commission on Accrediting for advanced programs oriented toward ministerial leadership. Admission requirements shall include a master's degree from an institution of higher education accredited by a US agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or approved by a Canadian provincial quality assurance agency, or the demonstrated educational equivalent of an appropriate accredited or approved North American master's degree. Comparable degrees from institutions outside North America may be accepted provided schools can demonstrate that they meet the Standards of the Board-approved degrees for admission.

G.4.2 Institutions offering the Doctor of [area of specialization] shall set appropriate standards for admission.

G.4.2.1 Classification I programs (for example, the DEdMin) as well as other cognate disciplines require completion of a Board-approved master's program or other advanced master's-level degrees in the related cognate discipline. Other areas of specialization shall require the appropriate master's degrees.

G.4.2.2 Classification II programs (for example, the DMiss) require the completion of the MDiv degree or its educational equivalent, or other advanced master's-level degrees in the related cognate discipline. Other areas of specialization shall require the appropriate master's degrees.

G.4.3 Educational equivalency for these master's degrees shall be determined by the institution through appropriate and documented assessment that demonstrates that students have the knowledge, competence, or skills that would normally be provided by specific ATS Board of Commissioners-approved MDiv-level course work or the appropriate master's-level course work in the appropriate disciplines or areas of specialization. The process and procedures for such determination shall be published in the institution's public documents.

G.4.4 Ministerial experience alone is not considered the equivalent of or a substitute for the master's degree.

G.4.5 The achievement of a new level of competence in the practice of ministry requires that students have at least three years of experience in ministry and demonstrated capacity for an advanced level of competence prior to beginning the program.

G.4.6 As many as 15 percent of the students in the specialized doctoral degree program may be admitted in any given year without the requisite three years of ministry experience, provided that the institution has demonstrable, objective means for determining that these persons have the capacity for the level of competence and reflection appropriate for advanced, professional ministerial studies. The admission of such applicants should be restricted to persons with ministry experience that has prepared them for theological study at the advanced level.

Advanced Programs Oriented Toward Ministerial Leadership

Standard H Doctor of Musical Arts (DMA) Doctor of Church Music (DCM) Doctor of Sacred Music (SMD)

H.1 Purpose, goals, learning outcomes, and educational assessment

H.1.1 Purpose of the degree

H.1.1.1 The purpose of these degrees is to equip persons for teaching, research, and leadership in church and sacred music.

H.1.2 Primary goals of the program

H.1.2.1 The goals an institution adopts for these programs should include mastery of the various disciplines included in the study of music, including the liturgical and historical repertory of church music, competence and proficiency in a performance area or areas, and capacity to engage in research and teaching.

H.1.3 Learning outcomes

H.1.3.1 The institution shall specify appropriate demonstrable learning outcomes for these degrees that demonstrate an advanced competency in the areas of church and sacred music, give evidence of being informed by analytic, ministerial, and disciplinary research, and show the integration of these areas of advanced knowledge with opportunities for growth in one's teaching, research, and leadership.

H.1.3.2 Institutions shall demonstrate that students have achieved the goals or learning outcomes of the degree program by means of direct and indirect evidence of student learning, including quantitative and qualitative assessments.

H.1.3.3 These specific, learning outcomes should shape and inform the design of all courses, relevant competency-based experiences, and formative and other instructional strategies to establish a coherent and integrated curriculum for the degree program.

NOTE: This Degree Program Standard assumes member schools also use and follow the *Educational Standard* (ES), which applies to all degree programs and which addresses such issues as nomenclature (ES.1), extension education (ES.3), distance education (ES.4), and assessment (ES.6).

H.1.4 Educational assessment

H.1.4.1 The institution offering these degrees shall articulate the assessment strategy and criteria by which it regularly evaluates the educational effectiveness of the degree program. The institution shall determine the extent to which students have achieved the stated goals of the degree program by the use of both direct and indirect evidence.

H.1.4.2 The institution shall be able to demonstrate that students completing these degrees have a comprehensive and critical understanding of the music disciplines and exhibit appropriate advanced proficiency in performance skills, the competence to conduct original research that can contribute to their field, and the capacity to teach with skill.

H.2 Program content

H.2.1 The program shall provide for advanced study in several areas, including liturgy, hymnology, theory, musicology, composition, and conducting.

H.2.2 The program shall provide for the study of foreign languages as appropriate for advanced scholarly work in music.

H.2.3 The program shall contain a major emphasis on musical performance.

H.2.4 The program shall include a comprehensive assessment of doctoral-level knowledge of the course of studies and a culminating dissertation reflecting a high quality of research skill.

H.2.4.1 The dissertation shall demonstrate the doctoral candidate's ability to identify an appropriate disciplinary topic, organize an effective research model, use appropriate resources, and evaluate the results, reflecting depth of insight in relation to the music disciplines.

H.3 Educational resources and learning strategies

H.3.1 Location

H.3.1.1 Courses, seminars, and colloquia for the degree shall be completed on a Board-approved campus or full-degree extension site of the member institution. If course work completed at other institutions is to be accepted for credit in a Board-approved doctoral program, that work shall have been eligible for credit in the doctoral programs offered by the institution at which it was completed.

H.3.1.2 An institution offering distance education courses for these degrees shall demonstrate in the courses the collaborative, performative, and research dimensions

of scholarship in the various disciplines included in the study of music, including the liturgical and historical repertory of church music. Courses shall provide regular and substantive interaction between teachers and learners and among learners to ensure a viable community of learning.

H.3.1.3 Because of their performative character, no more than one-third of the course work for these degrees may be completed through distance education. An exception may be granted if a school can demonstrate how its educational design and delivery system accomplishes the learning outcomes required for these degrees.

H.3.2 Duration

H.3.2.1 The program requires the equivalent of three years of full-time study beyond the MCM/MSM.

H.3.3 Distinctive resources needed

H.3.3.1 There shall be faculty members who are specialists in the field of church music, including a sufficient number to instruct students at the doctoral level in the variety of relevant disciplines. Faculty shall have proven competence in teaching and research, with established reputations for scholarship or music performance. It is desirable that they should have published the results of their own scholarly work and be currently engaged in productive research.

H.3.3.2 The program shall provide ready access to resources for the development of performance skills and opportunities to lead ensembles.

H.3.3.3 The program shall have adequate library resources for research in the fields of music, especially church music, including access to scores, musical texts, recordings, books, and other media.

H.3.3.4 The Board of Commissioners strongly recommends that any institution offering the research/performance doctorate in music have programmatic accreditation by the National Association of Schools of Music or its institutional counterpart in Canada.

H.4 Admission

H.4.1. Admission requirements shall include (a) completion of an NASM/ATS Commission on Accrediting-approved master's degree program, or (b) demonstration that the candidate has the competencies provided by the MCM/MSM degree in church music as prescribed by the National Association of Schools of Music (NASM), or alternatively by the master's-level degree programs earned from an institution of higher education that is approved by a Canadian provincial quality assurance agency or the demonstrated educational equivalent of an accredited or approved North American music master's degree; or (c) an acceptable plan for completing

these requirements in the course of study for the doctorate if the student has not met them through other prerequisites.

H.4.2 Admission should be based on appropriate performance and academic ability as well as the potential to contribute to leadership in church music.

Advanced Programs Primarily Oriented Toward Theological Research and Teaching

Standard I Master of Theology (ThM) Master of Sacred Theology (STM)

I.1 Purpose, goals, learning outcomes, and educational assessment

I.1.1 Purpose of the degree

I.1.1.1 The purpose of this degree is to provide a fuller mastery of one area or discipline of theological study than is normally provided at the MDiv level. The program may serve a variety of aims, including further graduate study at the doctoral level, preparation for some forms of teaching, the scholarly enhancement of ministerial practice, or disciplined reflection on a specialized function in ministry.

I.1.1.2 The nomenclature, Master of Theology (designated as MTh), is also used in some Canadian institutions for programs of continued study of theological disciplines or specialization in an area of ministry practice.

I.1.2 Primary goals of the program

I.1.2.1 The primary goals an institution adopts for these programs should include an advanced understanding of a focused area or discipline in the context of general theological study, the ability to formulate productive questions, and the capacity to use research methods and resources in the discipline.

I.1.3 Learning outcomes

I.1.3.1 The institution shall specify demonstrable learning outcomes that demonstrate an advanced competency in one area or discipline of theological study and capacity to conduct original research in that area.

I.1.3.2 The institution shall demonstrate, by direct and indirect evidence, that students have achieved the learning outcomes of the degree program, including mastery of a theological discipline and scholarly competence in research.

NOTE: This Degree Program Standard assumes member schools also use and follow the *Educational Standard* (ES), which applies to all degree programs and which addresses such issues as nomenclature (ES.1), extension education (ES.3), distance education (ES.4), and assessment (ES.6).

I.1.3.3 These specific, learning outcomes should shape and inform the design of all courses and other instructional strategies to establish a coherent and integrated curriculum for the degree program.

I.1.4 Educational assessment

I.1.4.1 The institution offering the ThM or STM degree shall articulate the assessment strategy and criteria by which it regularly evaluates the educational effectiveness of the degree program.

I.1.4.2 The institution shall also maintain an ongoing assessment by which it determines the extent to which the degree program is meeting the needs of students and the institution's overall goals for the program, including measures such as the percentage of students who complete the program.

I.1.4.3 Student learning outcomes shall be stated in terms of how students' skills and knowledge change as a result of having completed the degree. The institution shall gather quantitative and qualitative data related to each of those outcomes, analyze the data gathered, and make revisions as necessary based on that assessment. This assessment cycle shall be ongoing, regularized, and sustainable.

I.2 Program content

I.2.1 The program of study shall consist of regular course work and faculty-directed independent study and research.

I.2.2 To encourage an appropriate level of academic engagement, at least one-half of the work required shall be in courses designed for students in advanced programs.

I.2.3 Requirements for language study and other disciplines necessary for research should be appropriate to the field of specialization, typically one ancient language and one modern language.

I.2.4 Degree requirements should ordinarily include an examination that demonstrates mastery of a theological discipline and a thesis demonstrating scholarly research competence.

I.3 Educational resources and learning strategies

I.3.1 Location

I.3.1.1 The program shall be undertaken chiefly in courses offered on the institution's main campus with the appropriate research library resources and a sufficient number of students to provide a peer community for mutual criticism and stimulus. Any petition for exception shall demonstrate how its educational design and delivery system

accomplishes the learning outcomes associated with research-oriented residential theological study.

I.3.2 Duration

I.3.2.1 The program shall require one year of full-time study or its equivalent.

I.3.3 Distinctive resources needed

I.3.3.1 Faculty teaching in this program should be actively engaged in research that provides effective models of theological research for students and should be of sufficient number to provide a variety of scholarly perspectives.

I.3.3.2 The library shall have collections of sufficient quality to support research in the disciplines in which the ThM or STM is offered as well as appropriate databases and other scholarly resources.

I.4 Admission

I.4.1 Admission to the program shall require an ATS Board of Commissioners-approved MDiv, or first graduate theological degree providing equivalent theological background, or its educational equivalent, from an institution of higher education accredited by a US agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation, or approved by a Canadian provincial quality assurance agency; and evidence of aptitude for advanced theological study. Comparable degrees from institutions outside North America may be accepted provided schools can demonstrate that they meet the Standards of the Board-approved degrees for admission.

Advanced Programs Primarily Oriented Toward Theological Research and Teaching

Standard J Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Doctor of Theology (ThD)

J.1 Purpose, goals, learning outcomes, and educational assessment

J.1.1 Purpose of the degree

J.1.1.1 These degree programs are intended primarily to equip persons for vocations of teaching and research in theological schools, colleges, and universities, or for the academic study of ministerial practice. The same overall aims and Standards apply to both the PhD and the ThD; the nomenclature differs according to the history of its use in a particular school.

J.1.2 Primary goals of the program

J.1.2.1 The goals an institution adopts for the research doctorate should include a comprehensive knowledge of the disciplines of study; a competence to engage in original research and writing that advance theological understanding for the sake of church, academy, and society; and a breadth of knowledge in theological and religious studies and in other academic disciplines.

J.1.2.2 The program should also enable the student to develop a sense of and a commitment to the vocation of theological scholarship in its dimensions of teaching, learning, and research.

J.1.3 Learning outcomes

J.1.3.1 The institution shall specify learning outcomes that are demonstrable, that reflect the goals of the program, and that demonstrate advanced competency in the disciplines of theological or religious studies and capacity to conduct original research and writing that advances theological understanding.

J.1.3.2 The institution shall demonstrate, by direct and indirect evidence, that students have achieved the learning outcomes of the degree program, including mastery of a theological discipline and scholarly competence in advanced research.

NOTE: This Degree Program Standard assumes member schools also use and follow the *Educational Standard* (ES), which applies to all degree programs and which addresses such issues as nomenclature (ES.1), extension education (ES.3), distance education (ES.4), and assessment (ES.6).

J.1.3.3 These specific, learning outcomes should shape and inform the design of all courses and other instructional strategies to establish a coherent and integrated curriculum for the degree program.

J.1.4 Educational assessment

J.1.4.1 The institution offering the PhD or ThD degrees shall articulate the assessment strategy and criteria by which it regularly evaluates the educational effectiveness of the degree programs.

J.1.4.2 The institution shall also maintain an ongoing assessment by which it determines the extent to which the degree program is meeting the needs of students and the institution's overall goals for the program, including measures such as the percentage of students who complete the program.

J.1.4.3 The institution shall gather quantitative and qualitative data related to learning outcomes, analyze the data gathered, and make revisions as necessary based on that assessment. This assessment cycle shall be ongoing, regularized, and sustainable.

J.2 Program content

J.2.1 The program of study shall either presuppose or provide grounding in the content and methods of theological studies in general, as a basis for the development of specialized competence.

J.2.2 The program shall facilitate an orderly progression of studies toward its goals within a specified length of time, allowing students sufficient flexibility to meet professional interests and special needs. For the sake of the program as well as of the individual student, students should be carefully evaluated after a year of study so that those who do not show sufficient signs of promise can be so advised.

J.2.3 The curriculum shall include training in the research methods and procedures relevant to the area of specialization. Attention should be given not only to commonly accepted approaches but also to newly emerging possibilities for framing inquiries and organizing and examining data.

J.2.4 The program shall assist students to grow in those qualities essential for practice of scholarly ministry in theological environments.

J.2.5 Opportunities shall be provided for instruction in teaching methods and for the development of competence in teaching.

J.2.6 The program shall include course work, comprehensive examinations, and the writing of a doctoral dissertation.

J.2.6.1 The course work shall include a majority of courses intended for doctoral students or students in other advanced programs oriented toward theological research and teaching.

J.2.6.2 During both their course of studies and their dissertation research, students shall be required to use competently the language(s) in which relevant primary texts are written, as well as those in which there is important secondary material. Normally, this would include at least one ancient and one or more modern languages. Students engaged in theological disciplines that use behavioral or social scientific research methods shall be required to demonstrate competence in these research methods.

J.2.6.3 Students are expected to devote the kind of attention to their doctoral programs that ensures opportunity for intensive study, research, and interaction with other students.

J.3 Educational resources and learning strategies

J.3.1 Location

J.3.1.1 Courses, seminars, and colloquia for research doctoral degrees shall normally be completed on the main campus of the institution offering the degree. Any petition for exception shall demonstrate how its educational design and delivery system accomplishes the learning outcomes associated with research-oriented residential theological study. If course work completed at other institutions is to be accepted for credit in an ATS Board of Commissioners-approved research doctoral program, that work shall have been eligible for credit in the research doctoral programs offered by the institution at which it was completed or other advanced programs primarily oriented toward theological research and teaching.

J.3.2 Duration

J.3.2.1 The total time devoted to the program shall include the equivalent of two years of full-time course work and sufficient time to prepare for comprehensive examinations, to acquire teaching skills, and to conduct the research for and writing of a doctoral dissertation.

J.3.3 Distinctive resources needed

J.3.3.1 The institution shall demonstrate the availability of resources in addition to those necessary for master's-level degree programs.

J.3.3.2 The faculty shall be broadly representative of the areas or disciplines of theological inquiry, including at least two faculty specialists in each field in which doctoral

students may specialize and a sufficient number in cognate fields to support the program.

J.3.3.2.1 The faculty should have been trained in a variety of graduate institutions and should include a variety of scholarly viewpoints and approaches. Working relationships with faculty in other graduate institutions, in both research and graduate instruction, should be encouraged.

J.3.3.2.2 In general, faculty members should be competent in teaching and research, with a record of contributions to their disciplines. They should have published the results of their own scholarly work and should be currently engaged in significant research.

J.3.3.2.3 Faculty members shall be willing and able to offer guidance to doctoral students throughout the course of the program, both with regard to their development as scholars (e.g., in tutorials and independent study projects and in the writing of the dissertation) and with regard to their development as teachers and prospective colleagues in the academic profession.

J.3.3.2.4 The teaching and administrative loads of graduate faculty members—both junior and senior—shall be limited to permit ample time for attending to the needs of graduate students and for faculty research. The faculty shall participate in making academic policies relevant to the program.

J.3.3.3 Freedom of inquiry is fundamentally important for research doctoral programs. The institution must assure that not only faculty but also students have freedom to conduct research in their respective disciplines and, within any formally adopted confessional commitments of the institution, the freedom to communicate the findings of their research.

J.3.3.4 The institution shall allocate sufficient financial resources to support degree programs.

J.3.3.5 Research doctoral programs require substantial library holdings and facilities. Provision shall be made for the development and maintenance of research-quality collections and appropriate databases in each field of doctoral studies, together with collections in closely related fields. Adequate dedicated study space, technological support, information accessibility, and acquisitions and reference staff shall be ensured.

J.3.3.6 Where the faculty of a school participates to a significant degree in a doctoral program offered under the auspices of another institution (or of another division of its own institution), the school shall account for this use of its resources.

J.4 Admission

J.4.1 Admission to the program shall require an ATS Board of Commissioners-approved MDiv, or first graduate theological degree providing equivalent theological background, or its educational equivalent from an institution of higher education accredited by a US agency recognized by the Council for Higher Education Accreditation or approved by a Canadian provincial quality assurance agency. Comparable degrees from institutions outside North America may be accepted provided schools can demonstrate that they meet the Standards of the Board-approved degrees for admission.

J.4.2 Admission should be selective and offered only to students who have demonstrated the intellectual ability, the preparation, and the motivation for a scholarly vocation.

J.4.3 Because of the importance to scholarly growth of a sustained period of study in residence, admission should not be offered unless financial resources and arrangements are available to enable students to engage in full-time study for at least a significant part of their program.

J.4.4 The number of students admitted in each field should be sufficient to provide a community of peers but should not be so large as to imperil the quality of instruction.