APPENDIX D

Requirements for the Award of Doctor of Education

The Doctor of Education (EdD) is an advanced degree granted on successful completion of an approved program of coursework and an independent and original investigation of an educational issue relevant to the education profession. The purpose of the degree of Doctor of Education is to prepare professional leaders in Education and related fields. Candidates undertake a focused program of study, including coursework in research methodology, a specialist area of education studies, and a thesis.

The presentation of the investigation and results should be in an acceptable form for examination as a thesis. The thesis should report original work, the research may be of an applied nature, into issues of professional or policy concern. The EdD thesis comprises two-thirds of the total program, 96 cp of the 144 cp program (approximately 95,000 words).

The principal criteria for the award of the degree of Doctor of Education is whether the thesis represents an original and significant contribution to knowledge and/or professional practice, either by the discovery of new facts or understandings, and/or the exercising of independent critical ability and/or the articulation of a new or novel approach to the research question.

An original contribution to knowledge may be reflected in a number of ways. The candidate may have raised an important new problem or have addressed an existing problem in a novel way. A candidate may have investigated previously ignored material, developed new techniques for investigating issues, or have applied existing techniques to a new area of study. Whether a candidate’s work constitutes a “significant contribution to knowledge” could be gauged by the extent to which material from the thesis is publishable. Normally a satisfactory Doctoral thesis might be expected to form the basis for one or more articles in recognised refereed professional journals, or be the basis for a monograph. Examiners are invited to offer an opinion on the publishable content of a thesis.

The thesis may include for consideration any material previously published, provided the research forms an integral part of their thesis and was undertaken during the candidature for this Doctor of Education.

The thesis should demonstrate the candidate’s ability to present the research in a written format with related technologies as appropriate; it should be free of typographical and grammatical errors and communicate the purpose and result of the research project in a concise and effective manner. It should demonstrate that key findings have been appropriately communicated to significant stakeholders. The candidate should be able to assess critically the present state of knowledge in the subject and understand the place of their research project in relation to the field.