1. Candidates for the degree of Doctor of Health proceed through their award by completing coursework followed by supervised research leading to a thesis. The minimum standard of performance required is that of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in respect of originality and publishable content and care in presentation.

2. Candidates submitting a thesis have already completed one and a half years full-time or three years part-time coursework prior to commencing the research project. The thesis comprises 50% of the requirements for the award of the degree and is intended to represent the product of the equivalent of one and a half years full-time or 3 years part-time study on the research component. Both the coursework and the thesis must be passed satisfactorily for the degree to be awarded.

The thesis will demonstrate competence in defining a problem (or other matter), summarising its main features and relevant literature, defining research aims or questions, using appropriate methodology to investigate the matter, interpreting and discussing the results and drawing conclusions and making recommendations.

The thesis should demonstrate an ability to design a methodology and to research a problem of significance to health and by reporting on it to make a significant contribution to the knowledge of the subject concerned.

A thesis may take one of the following forms:

(a) a series of papers dealing with research on a specific topic which would be acceptable for submission to a peer-reviewed scientific, academic or professional journal for consideration for publication.

OR

(b) a report concerning certain health problems, their causes and proposed solutions, which would be suitable for presentation to a government department, an independent agency or inquiry, the private health industry, international aid/health organisations, e.g. a research granting body.

For (a) or (b) the paper or report would normally be supplemented by appropriate appendices. The main body of the thesis should be direct and concise and should include a short summary. The appendices can be used for in-depth exposition of the methodology, more detailed presentation of source or results, a full bibliography, or an expanded discussion of certain arguments, if this is required.

OR

(c) a formal academic composition which clearly states the context and importance or relevance of the subject matter, specifies the research question(s), describes methods used and results obtained, critically discusses these in the light of existing knowledge, and ends with the formulation of conclusions and / or recommendations.
3. The final recommendation of an examiner usually falls into one of the following categories:

(i) That the thesis be accepted as satisfactory.

(ii) That, provided one or more minor corrections are made to the satisfaction of the Director, Menzies School of Health Research or delegate, the thesis be accepted as satisfactory.

(iii) That although the thesis does not meet the standard expected for the degree, the candidate be allowed to revise and resubmit.

(iv) That the thesis be rejected and that the degree not be awarded.

The Examiners Report form includes the above categories and the strengths and weaknesses of the thesis may be recorded in an accompanying report. Examiners may also wish to make suggestions which would be helpful to the candidate in preparing the material for publication but which do not require modification in the thesis.

Specific corrections to be made in the thesis may be listed if the award is recommended subject to corrections.

Examiners are requested to return their reports and assessments within three months.

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**Research Thesis Assessment Criteria**

**Doctor of Health**

**Length:** 50,000 - 60,000 words

The **criteria for assessment** will include the following:

- Is there a clear aim and purpose to the project?
- Does the project present a sustained argument?
- Does the project demonstrate the candidate’s acquaintance with a broad range of relevant literature?
- Does the project reflect an acceptable level of analysis, interpretation and synthesis of the existing literature and/or project findings? Are the candidate’s conclusions consistent with the arguments?
- Are the recommendations consistent with the overall findings?
- Does the project adhere to accepted referencing procedures; and
- Does the project reflect a standard of editing and presentation expected of a piece of work at this level?