

The Mentoring Process for Regis College Doctoral Students:

Apprenticeship in Scholarship and Spirituality

The first section of this Doctoral Mentoring document focuses upon the *general objectives* of the Doctoral programs at Regis College and the *nature* of these different programs. The second section provides *details of the various resources* that contribute to the professional mentoring of Regis College Doctoral students.

I Regis College Mission and the Doctoral Programs

- 1. Integrating Theology and Spirituality.** Doctoral Studies at Regis College is a multidimensional experience that seeks to prepare students both academically and spiritually for their future profession. Within the Mission of Regis College, our Doctoral programs seek to inspire an integrated spirituality for students and faculty, one that includes a faith that is oriented towards academic excellence, social justice issues, and critical dialogue with various cultures. This pedagogy is grounded in Ignatian spirituality and is faithful to the Roman Catholic Tradition.
- 2. Academic Resources.** The academic resources of Regis College are outstanding:
 - i. The Doctoral programs are offered through the [Toronto School of Theology](#) (TST). TST [includes](#) seven member colleges, four affiliated schools, 12 related institutions, and an associated relationship with the academic communities of the [University of Toronto](#).
 - ii. Regis College Doctoral students have access to over 100 Advanced Degree (AD) courses annually from TST alone, and to over 60 AD faculty members. Regis College has 15 [faculty members](#) who have regular status in the TST AD programs.
- 3. The Doctoral Programs.** Doctoral programs at Regis College prepare theology students for teaching, research, and publishing at the University level, as well as for professional careers in certain other areas. These Doctoral programs are:

- i. The [Doctor of Theology \(ThD\) and Doctor of Philosophy \(PhD\)](#). The ThD is granted conjointly by Regis College and the University of Toronto and the PhD is granted by the University of St. Michael's College. These programs differ only in the requirement that one member of the Committee for the oral defence of the ThD must be from the University of Toronto. ThD students may apply to graduate from the PhD program as Regis students at the end of their program (normally after their thesis topic has been approved).
- ii. The Doctorate of Sacred Theology ([STD](#)) is the ecclesial doctorate offered through the Jesuit Graduate Faculty of Theology of Regis College at the University of Toronto. Beyond the academic requirements for the ThD, it requires that the thesis, or a significant portion of the thesis, be published in a refereed journal or book.
- iii. The Doctor of Ministry ([DMin](#)) program is granted conjointly by Regis College and the University of Toronto. This is geared solely for students involved in some form of full time ministry. It is administered largely through the Toronto School of Theology, though students are registered through Regis College and have access to most of our services.

II *Mentoring Features of the Doctoral Programs*

In order to prepare students for academic teaching and research, and to inspire them towards an integrated spirituality, Regis College offers various specific resources. These are described below, under the general areas of: 1. *Program Guidance*; 2. *Study Resources*, 3. *Teaching and Research*; 4. *Student and Spiritual Life*; and 5. *Financial Aid*.

1. Program Guidance

A. *Supervisory, Examination and Thesis Committees*

- i. According to regulations in the [Academic Doctoral Handbook](#), a supervisory committee is appointed for each ThD student upon admission. It consists of three faculty members and the student. Normally the chair of this committee is a member of Regis College. The chair maintains a mentoring contact throughout the course-stage of the program.

- ii. This Supervisory Committee meets regularly to advise the student on courses and research languages, and it recommends to the student's Department a Comprehensive Examination Committee and exam areas.
 - iii. The Comprehensive Exam Committee oversees the examination process and meets for a final oral defence. It also recommends to the student's Department a Thesis Proposal Committee, including a Thesis Director.
 - iv. The Thesis Director guides the student through the Thesis stage of the program.
 - v. DMin students are mentored by a Ministry Base Group, a professional mentor designated by the DMin Advisory Board, a Doctoral Supervisory Committee, and a Thesis Director, at various stages of their [program](#).
- B. *Advanced Degree (AD) Directors*
- i. All areas of the ThD and DMin programs are overseen by the Regis College AD Director and the TST AD Director. The DMin program is also overseen by the TST DMin Director
 - ii. These AD Directors lead program orientation sessions in September and respond to questions, issues, or problems that arise for students throughout their program.

2. Study Resources

- i. Twenty individual and secure Study Carrols located close to the Regis College Library are available to ThD students. Available spaces may be retained for up to four years. Some DMin students studying full time on campus are granted Study Carrols.
- ii. Students have access to the services and resources of [Regis College Library](#). [Reference and instruction service](#) is individual and can address the needs of doctoral students.
- iii. Students have access to the services and resources of the [University of Toronto](#) Libraries (UTL) ranked as the third best academic library in North America. There are many collections throughout the library

system relevant for theological and religious studies. UTL offers regular instruction on a wide range of library research topics. A full range of services, including interlibrary loans, are offered.

- iv. Regis College Library also coordinates a [Regis College Writing Clinic](#), which includes free individual tutoring sessions.
- v. Students also have access to the [University of Toronto English Language and Writing Support Program](#).

3. Student Research and Teaching

A. Research and Teaching Assistantships

- i. All ThD students will be considered for a limited number of Research Assistantships and Teaching Assistantships.
- ii. Student Research Assistants work closely with a faculty member on a research project related to the student's field of study. This can include library bibliographic searches, copy-editing assistance, research for course preparation, creating book indices, etc.
- iii. Under the close supervision of a faculty member, Student Teaching Assistants grade and comment on papers and exams, lead tutorials, attend class lectures, and occasionally guest lecture.

B. Co-Instruction of a Course

- i. ThD students who have completed their comprehensive exams may be eligible to organise and teach a course with a regular faculty member in an area of the student's field of study.
- ii. The level or degree of responsibility for the course is determined in consultation with the faculty member and the Dean. The faculty member attends the lectures and provides constructive feedback on all aspects of the course.

C. Sessional Lecture

- i. ThD students who have completed their comprehensive exams may propose to teach a course in an area of their field of study. Normally

this course is a regular College course offered in the Summer Session. Lectureships are determined by the Dean.

- ii. The Dean or a Faculty mentor will attend some lectures and provide constructive feedback; and the Dean will also draw on student reviews in providing an overall evaluation of the course.

D. *Research Seminars and Presentations*

- i. Regis College hosts two [Advanced Degree/Faculty Seminars](#) each semester where a faculty person or student presents a paper for discussion, followed by formal and informal responses and students and a social gathering.
- ii. The [Lonergan Research Institute](#) of Regis College maintains a research library and archives relating to the work of Bernard Lonergan, S.J. It also hosts five annual seminars that include both student and faculty presentations and responses.
- iii. The Lupina Centre for Spirituality, Healthcare and Ethics offers regular lectures and workshops through its association with Regis College.
- iv. Through the Advanced Degree Students Association (ADSA), the Toronto School of Theology offers regular Biblical, Patristic, and Liturgy [Seminars](#), which include student and faculty presentations and responses. It also offers Greek and Latin Reading Groups, and various other informal research mentoring opportunities arise regularly with faculty.
- v. [Regis](#) College, other TST Colleges and the University of Toronto regularly sponsor many presentations by university and visiting scholars, in the various areas of Theology, Ministry, and Religious Studies.
- vi. Students are encouraged to attend the regional and national Meetings of the American Academy of Religion (AAR), the Catholic Theological Society of America (CTSA), the Canadian Theological Society (CTS), and the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion (CSSR), as well as other academic conferences. Regis students are encouraged to submit paper proposals to these various events.

- vii. The ADSA offers some support for ThD students through their [Conference Travel Bursaries](#). The CTS and CSSR also provide some support for student travel.

4. Student and [Spiritual Life](#)

- i. Regis College has a multi-denominational, multicultural student body, with an extremely wide range of personal background, skills, and experience. There is an international context of the College which is truly enriching and inspiring, and which reflects the cultural diversity of Toronto. Regis College has a vibrant and diverse community spirit which includes many activities.
- ii. Regis College has daily and weekly Liturgical celebrations. It offers opportunities for spiritual guidance with spiritual directors, and encourages student involvement in community activities.
- iii. Various retreat opportunities are available through [Loyola House](#) of Guelph, Ontario, or through the [Manresa Retreat Centre](#) in Pickering, Ontario, both of which are associated with Regis College.
- iv. [Regis College Student Council](#) host a wide variety of social events, including pub nights, de-stress events, film series, career forums, ministry workshops, and cultural events such as international pot luck dinners.
- v. The [Dean of Students](#) supports the work of student council and provides a link between the student body and the administration of the College. She is a significant guide and support for students.
- vi. The Advanced Degree Student's Association ([ADSA](#)) of TST offers much in the way of academic and personal support for AD students, including research and professional development [seminars](#), student advocacy, and social gatherings. Also, TST has an ecumenist-in-residence who organises seminars and worship services.
- vii. Students of Regis College have access to some services and programs through the University of Toronto Student's Union ([UTSU](#)), including health and dental insurance. Also, Regis students have access to resources at the University of Toronto related to [international students](#) and for students with [disabilities](#).

- viii. Similar to other divisions within the University of Toronto, Regis College and TST select services for their students from a menu of options, such as supplementary health care, [English language and writing support](#), and the [Teaching Assistant's Training Program](#). This selection of services is negotiated periodically. Some additional services may be purchased by individual students, such as access to the University of Toronto [athletic facilities](#), [Hart House facilities](#), and to other associations and activities. Information about current services is available from the [Regis Registrar](#).
- ix. Regis College and the University of Toronto also provide access to family student housing and other [student housing](#). Regis students also have priority access to a limited number of rooms on the graduate floors of the [University's Chestnut Residence](#).
- x. [Regis College](#) and [TST](#) also offer students various kinds of Post-Doctoral support, in the form of Post-Doctoral Scholarship information, information on openings in academic and professional ministry, and events sponsored by the [Regis Alumni Association](#).

5. Financial Aid

- i. There are various [Regis College scholarships](#) available for ThD students, including: the Lupina Scholarship, for students pursuing programs in spirituality, healthcare and ethics (\$10,000/year for up to four years); Lonergan Studies Scholarships (\$10,000/year for up to two years);, and Regis College ThD scholarships (\$5000.00/year for up to five years).
- ii. ThD students are encouraged to apply for external scholarships. All students are expected to apply for both the [SSHRC](#) and [OGS](#) awards. Only in instances where external awards require matching grants will the Regis scholarships be applied towards the matching requirement. Otherwise, Regis awards can be held concurrently with other external awards.
- iii. There are a limited number of Research Assistantships and Teaching Assistantships available for qualified students.

Advanced Degree Committee
Regis College

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