

Approved by the GPC 4-19-10. Revisions requested by the Faculty Senate 2-16-11. Revised and subsequently approved by the GPC 2-28-11.

Graduate Bulletin Revisions to the Doctoral Dissertation Defense Policy-

Some of the proposed Graduate Bulletin changes made previously by the GPC had significant alterations made by the Faculty Senate and the GPC revised/readdressed them at this meeting. See GPC and FS minutes for a more detailed explanation of the changes made.

All committee members and the student must attend the entire defense in real time, either by being physically present or participating via distance technology. Individual departments may impose stricter requirements on physical attendance, e.g., all members must be physically present. Departments and other degree-granting programs must publicize their policy on defense attendance in their Graduate Student Handbook and in the relevant section of the Graduate Bulletin. If exceptional emergency circumstances, e.g. medical or other emergency situations, prevent the participation of a committee member then it may be necessary to arrange for an additional appropriately qualified colleague to attend the defense. A minimum of four members with Graduate Faculty Status must participate.

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The oral examining committee will certify in writing to the academic dean of the major department the results of the examination: passed, failed, or to be reexamined. The report of results following a reexamination must indicate the student either passed or failed. To receive a passing grade, the written dissertation must be in final form or require only minor revisions at the time of the defense. A grade of PASS for the defense of treatise or dissertation requires at least a majority approval of the committee. Individual departments may impose stricter requirements for what constitutes a grade of PASS. Departments and other degree-granting programs must publicize their policy on this issue in their Graduate Student Handbook and in the relevant section of the Graduate Bulletin. If the student passes, each member must sign the Manuscript Signature Form to substantiate the results of the defense. It is the responsibility of the major professor to submit this completed form either directly to the Clearance Advisor or to the appropriate college or departmental office for subsequent delivery to the Clearance Advisor in The Graduate School. The degree cannot be awarded until this form has been received by the Graduate School and the final version of the manuscript has been submitted to and approved by the Clearance Advisor.