

## **Doctoral Dissertation Defense Committee**

The committee consists of five members, three of whom (including the dissertation advisor) must be members of the Graduate Faculty and the Department of Psychological Science. The fourth member serves as Chair of the Dissertation Defense Committee; the chairperson must not be a core faculty (i.e., have a primary appointment) or affiliated faculty (i.e., have a secondary appointment) in the Department of Psychological Science (see the department website for a list of core and affiliated departmental faculty) and must not be a core or affiliated faculty in the dissertation advisor's department. The chairperson must be a member of the Graduate Faculty. The fifth member can be inside or outside of the Psychology Department and need not be a member of the Graduate Faculty. At least one person must be a core faculty member in the student's academic cluster (i.e., clinical, social, developmental, or biobehavioral\*), and it is strongly recommended that one be from a department cluster other than the student's own.

Proposals for thesis or dissertation research must be approved by the full committee in advance of substantive work on the project. Changes in thesis or dissertation plans are to be discussed with the committee for approval as the research is in progress. It is the responsibility of the student to keep her or his committee up to date.

Thesis and dissertation defenses are publicly held. The student must complete the department Intent to Defend Form at least at least six weeks prior to the defense. The student must follow all Graduate College requirements and deadlines. Defenses must take place during the academic year, which spans the week before classes start in fall semester through the week after spring commencement. A request must be made to the Department Chair for a defense outside of these dates and will only be approved in exceptional circumstances and with the unanimous support of the defense committee.

\*A core faculty member from any of the academic clusters in the Department of Psychological Science (i.e., clinical, social, developmental, or biobehavioral) will fulfill this requirement for students in the Human Behavioral Pharmacology subprogram.

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