

Psychological Science Department Policy on Students Scheduling Committee Meetings and Defenses during Summer

Note: This policy applies to scheduling Master's Thesis and dissertation proposal meetings and defenses and to comprehensive examination committee meetings.

Updated 5/13/2021

Thesis and Dissertation proposal meetings, and defenses, and comprehensive examination committee meetings (including the initial proposal review) shall not occur during the summer months, defined as the period beginning 1 week after commencement and ending 1 week before the start of fall semester classes, except in extraordinary circumstances, because of which a summer meeting or defense cannot be avoided.

Under these circumstances, the student may request a waiver of this policy from their Program Director (Director of Clinical Training for clinical students; General/Experimental Director for G/E students). This request must include a description of the extenuating circumstances that make a summer meeting or defense necessary. This request should be made to the Program Director as soon as the student anticipates the need for a summer meeting or defense. The Program Director will poll the committee and grant a waiver only if each member of the committee agrees to the meeting.

In the rare circumstance that a defense is approved by the committee, the student must still follow the Department's Intent to Defend process and form (this form is not required for proposals). This includes a signature from the research mentor indicating that he/she has reviewed and approved a high quality and complete draft at least 6 weeks before the earliest possible defense date. Approval for a summer defense does not imply permission to schedule the actual defense date before the mentor has approved a high quality and complete draft.