

Outline of Dissertation Defense Procedures

Philosophy

The defense will have two purposes:

- to evaluate if the student can present the findings and implications of the research to a professional audience and respond professionally to scholarly questions related to the research
- to communicate the results of the research to a broad group of interested faculty and students.

Invitations

Invite to the defense faculty and students who would profit from learning of the results of the research and enjoy dialogue on the topic. At the scheduled time the door is closed, after which no additional guests to the defense are admitted nor are any permitted to leave. There is to be absolutely no audible reaction to the examination or any discussion among the guests.

Defense Procedures

Introduction	5 minutes	The Dissertation Convener introduces participants, explains procedures and has prayer.
Presentation	15-20 minutes	The candidate presents the dissertation research to the audience. This would be similar to a paper presentation at a convention. It would be appropriate to have handouts, transparencies, etc. Do not go over 20 minutes.
Questioning Round 1	60 minutes	The examining committee (dissertation committee and External Examiner) questions the candidate. Each examiner will initiate a 10-15 minute informal round of questions. After the initial question, members join in with follow-up questions and/or comments. Each examiner will be in charge of moderating questioning during his/her allotted 10-15 minutes.
Questioning Round 2	10-15 minutes	The audience will be invited to question the candidate. The Dissertation Convener will moderate this round.
Questioning Round 3	20-30 minutes	The examining committee will have wrap-up questions/comments (5 minutes for each examining committee member).
Executive Session	10-15 minutes	After dismissing the audience and candidate, the examining committee in executive session evaluates the quality of the defense and votes one of three options: pass, minor revisions pass, major revisions No pass There will normally be no discussion of substantive changes to the dissertation. Any typos, etc. found by committee members may be communicated directly to the dissertation chair.