

stay in the vicinity of the Examination room or their computer (if they are defending virtually).

- If the student is defending virtually, they should be either: 1) placed in a virtual breakout room (can be found under account preferences) or 2) an arrangement is made with the student where the supervisor will contact them via phone or email when deliberation has been completed so they can re-join the virtual meeting.

The Examination Committee deliberates and come to a conclusion on the thesis examination. The Examination Committee will be assessing the acceptability of the Thesis as a written document and the acceptability of the Candidate in the Defence of the Thesis.

The Candidate will be asked back into the room (or reconnected to the video conference) to hear the outcome of the examination process.

Details on the questioning period:

The question period (all rounds) should normally last no more than 1.5 hours. The time allotment for each Examiner within each round will be determined by the Chair before the defence and will be defined largely by the number of Examiners.

- For example, if there are four Examiners, the first round of questions could be 15 minutes each for a total of 1 hour. The second round would be then a maximum of 7.5 minutes for each Examiner, assuming all had questions. If time is allowing for the Supplementary round, each Examiner would be limited to one or two brief questions.
- If there are five Examiners, the first round could be 15 minutes each for a total of 1.25 hours. The second round then would be then brief with each Examiner given an average of 3 minutes, assuming all had questions.
- The Chair has latitude to give slight favour to the External Examiner in the distribution of time allotment for questioning.

It is the responsibility of the Chair to ensure that the questioning takes place in an organized and fair manner. They should discourage a debate among Examiners and that an Examiner does not interrupt/intervene in the questioning of another Examiner.

Details on the Deliberations:

The Chair will ask each Examiner in turn (in the order identified during the Introductions above) to make **brief** comments on their assessment of:

- The thesis as a written document
- The performance of the Candidate in defending the thesis

The Committee must then come to a consensus or majority vote on a Recommendation on the thesis. Please see an explanation of the possible recommendations below.

At the end of the thesis, the Chair must:

Complete Thesis Defence Report and return it to FGSR.

Outcomes from the Masters Thesis Defense

<p style="text-align: center;">THESIS ACCEPTABLE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 1</p> <p>Thesis acceptable, with or without minor revisions Oral defense acceptable</p> <p>All members of the examining committee sign the certification page EXCEPT THE SUPERVISOR, who will sign only after ensuring the necessary revisions have been made.</p> <p><i>As a general guide, if the committee does not feel that the thesis revisions can be completed within a two-week time frame by a student working full-time on the thesis, it should be considered Recommendation 2.</i></p>	
<p style="text-align: center;">THESIS REQUIRES RE-SUBMISSION</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 2</p> <p>Underlying research adjudged to be sound, but thesis in need of recasting, addition of illustrative material or limited additional data Oral defense acceptable</p> <p>Recommendation 2 is often used in situations where different members of the committee take on specific responsibilities for ensuring that a particular part of the thesis is revised as required. In these circumstances, the normal practice is for those with such responsibilities not to sign the certification page until the revisions have been made, while other members not so involved may sign immediately after the examination. Otherwise, none of the committee members sign the certification page until the revised document has been returned for the committee's final approval (no additional oral defense).</p> <p><i>As a general guide, if the committee does not feel that the thesis revisions can be completed within a six-week time frame by a student working full-time on the thesis, it should be considered Recommendation 4.</i></p>	<p>ORAL DEFENSE ACCEPTABLE</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THESIS ACCEPTABLE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 3</p> <p>Thesis acceptable Oral defense unacceptable Only available to students taking the oral exam for the first time</p> <p>Second attempt at oral defense should be completed within three months of the date of the initial examination. For logistical reasons, the second oral defense may occur without the presence of the External Examiner. If the External Examiner does not attend, a Faculty member external to the home department/program will serve in their place.</p>	<p>ORAL DEFENSE UNACCEPTABLE</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THESIS UNACCEPTABLE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 4</p> <p>Thesis does not meet minimum standards, but committee believes that further research and/or revision may bring it to an acceptable standard or thesis defense is unacceptable but the committee agrees that the Candidate has the potential, with additional preparation, to be able to successfully defend</p>	<p>ORAL EXAMINATION RE-TAKE</p>

	<p>their work. Only available to students taking the oral exam for the first time.</p> <p><i>Re-submission of thesis and second attempt of oral defense no sooner than six months and no later than twelve months after the original defense.</i></p>	
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**THESIS
UNACCEPTABLE**