

Procedures/Agenda for PhD Thesis Defense
Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research
Saint Mary's University
Updated:

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 defense 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 3 minutes, assuming all had questions.

The Chair will give 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 (on)3 nBT/Fag of (on)3 nBT/Fag of (on)3 nBT/Fag 0 l3sWoe g0r9

Outcomes from the PhD Thesis Defense

<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 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>	<p style="text-align: center;">ORAL EXAMINATION RE-TAKE</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">THESIS UNACCEPTABLE</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendation 5</p> <p>Thesis does not meet minimum standards and committee considers that no reasonable amount of additional research or revision is likely to bring it to an acceptable standard or oral defense of thesis is completely unacceptable and committee agrees that the Candidate does not have potential to be able to successfully defend the work.</p> <p><i>Committee recommends that the Candidate be Required to Discontinue from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research.</i></p>	<p style="text-align: center;">CLEAR FAIL</p>
<p style="text-align: center;">EXTERNAL EXAMINER DOES NOT VOTE WITH MAJORITY</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">External Examiner Does Not Vote With Majority</p> <p>If the committee cannot reach a consensus on the acceptability of the thesis and/or the defense, a vote must be taken. The Dean's designated Chair of the Examining Committee does not vote. Abstentions shall be interpreted as negative votes. Where the External Examiner does not share the majority view, (whether it is a yes or no vote) the examination shall be adjourned, the External Examiner shall write a report to the Dean indicating why he or she could not support the majority opinion of the Examining Committee, and the Dean will review the situation and establish appropriate procedures to resolve the matter. In addition, the chairperson must submit a written assessment of the examination. All reports must be copied to the Program Coordinator.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">DEAN'S ACTION</p>