

# DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY GENERAL REGULATIONS

The degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) is granted only upon evidence of general proficiency and of distinctive achievement in a special field. In particular, the candidate must demonstrate an ability for independent investigation, original research or creative scholarship. This is expected to be presented in a thesis with a degree of literary skill and by an oral examination wherein the candidate exhibits mastery of their field. The Ph.D. is a research degree and is not conferred by The University of Manitoba solely as a result of coursework study.

## Admission

### General Criteria

Usually, the completion of a Master's degree or equivalent from a recognized university and a cumulative GPA of 3.0 on a 4.5 scale or equivalent in the last two (2) years of full-time university study (60 credit hours) is the minimum requirement for admission to the Ph.D. program.

**Note:** This is the minimum requirement of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and departments/units may have higher standards and additional criteria. Students who meet the minimum requirements for admission to the Faculty of Graduate Studies are not guaranteed admission. Some departments/units require completion of a thesis-based Master's program prior to admission to a Ph.D. program.

### Direct Admission from the Bachelor's Honours or Equivalent

With special recommendation of the department/unit, applicants without a Master's degree who have an honours Bachelor's degree or equivalent may be considered for entry to the Ph.D. program. These students must be outstanding in their academic background (GPA well above 3.0 in the last two (2) full years (60 credit hours) of undergraduate study).

Once admitted, these students must complete at least 24 credit hours of coursework (unless otherwise specified in the department's/unit's approved supplementary regulations) and will be assessed Ph.D. program fees for three (3) years. A minimum of 18 credit hours at the 7000-level or higher is required, with the balance of the coursework at the 3000-level or higher. A maximum of 48 credit hours of coursework is allowed toward the Ph.D. program.

**Note:** This is the minimum requirement of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and departments/units may have higher standards and additional criteria.

### Transfer from the Master's to the Ph.D. Program

Students who have not completed a Master's program may transfer to the Ph.D. program within the same department/unit upon the recommendation by the Department/Unit Head to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The recommendation should be made within four (4) terms from the start of the Master's program. Fees paid, coursework completed, and time spent in the Master's program will usually be applied towards the Ph.D. program. Students must complete at least 24 credit hours of coursework unless the individual department/unit's approved supplementary regulations specify otherwise. A minimum of 18 credit hours at the 7000-level or higher is required, with the balance of the coursework at the 3000-level or higher. A maximum of 48 credit hours of coursework is allowed toward the Ph.D. program.

The request to transfer from a Master's to the Ph.D. program must be submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies via the Faculty's admission application at least one (1) month prior to the term for which the student intends to start the Ph.D. program. The applicant must indicate a request for transfer in their application.

The student will be admitted to a 3-year Ph.D. program and will pay a total of three years of program fees, including program (but not differential) fees paid in the Master's at the time of transfer. Students are cautioned that such transfers may impact the duration of The University of Manitoba Graduate Fellowship and may have implications for other funding.

Students who have previously completed a recognized Master's degree and are initially admitted and registered in a Master's program may transfer to the Ph.D. program within the same department/unit on the recommendation of the student's advisor/co-advisor and Department/Unit Head. Where a student holds a Master's degree that would be sufficient for admission to the Ph.D. program, students must complete at least 12 credit hours of coursework at the 7000 level or higher, unless the individual department's/unit's approved supplementary regulations specify otherwise. The student will be admitted to a 2-year Ph.D. program and will pay a total of two years of program fees, including program (but not differential) fees paid in the Master's at the time of transfer.

### Provisional Admission to the Ph.D.

Students nearing the completion of the Master's degree may be accepted provisionally to the Ph.D. program up to a 12-month period commencing with the first registration in the Ph.D. program. Further registration in the Ph.D. program is contingent upon completion of all requirements of the Master's degree within the 12 months. Students must maintain continuous registration in their Master's program until its completion. Students will require assistance from the department/unit and the Faculty of Graduate Studies to complete dual registration on the "Concurrent Curriculum Permission (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/forms/>)" form in the Master's and Ph.D. program simultaneously.

## Student's Advisor, Co-advisor and Advisory Committee

### Student's Advisor

Every Ph.D. student must have an advisor throughout their program, who is recommended to the Faculty of Graduate Studies by the Department/Unit Head. The advisor is responsible for supervising the student's graduate program. The advisor is the student's primary point of contact at the University of Manitoba and must be familiar with the general policies and regulations of the Faculty of Graduate Studies as well as the specific supplementary regulations of their academic department/unit. In this capacity, the advisor assists the student in planning the graduate program and ensures that the student is aware of all graduate program requirements, degree regulations, and general regulations of the academic department/unit, the Faculty of Graduate Studies, the university, and external funding agencies. The advisor provides counsel for all aspects of the graduate program, and stays informed of the student's scholarly activities and progress. The student's advisor also acts as a channel of communication to the student's advisory committee, the department/unit and the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

The advisor must:

- hold an appointment in the student's department/unit.
- be a member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies<sup>1</sup>;

- hold a Ph.D. or equivalent<sup>2</sup>;
- be active in their field of research; and
- have expertise in a discipline related to the student's program.

<sup>1</sup> See <https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/graduate-studies-administration> (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/graduate-studies-administration/>) for details.

<sup>2</sup> Equivalency will be approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and determined on a case-by-case basis and assessed by the potential advisor's demonstrated research record and current research activities. Note that M.D., D.M.D., Pharm.D. and J.D. are undergraduate degrees and are not equivalent to a Ph.D.

Usually, the student and the advisor choose to work together by mutual agreement. In departments/units where the choice of thesis topic advisor is postponed for some time after entry into the program, the Head of the department/unit or designate shall appoint a faculty member to advise the student as to the rules and regulations and on program and course requirements. This interim period must not exceed eighteen (18) months after entry into the program before a permanent advisor is chosen.

### Student's Co-advisor

In special circumstances, upon approval of the Head of the department/unit, an advisor and a maximum of one (1) co-advisor may advise a student. The co-advisor must:

- be a member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies<sup>1</sup>;
- hold a Ph.D. or equivalent<sup>2</sup>;
- be active in research; and
- have expertise in a discipline related to the student's program.

<sup>1</sup> See <https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/graduate-studies-administration> (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/graduate-studies-administration/>) for details.

<sup>2</sup> Equivalency will be approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and determined on a case-by-case basis and assessed by the potential co-advisor's demonstrated research record and current research activities. Note that M.D., D.M.D. and J.D. are undergraduate degrees and are not equivalent to a Ph.D.

The co-advisor may be identified either at the beginning of, or midway through, a student's program. In all instances, the Faculty of Graduate Studies must be informed of, and approve, the co-advisor arrangement. If a co-advisor is added, removed, or changed midway through the student's program, a new Advisor-Student Guidelines must be completed. When an advisor and co-advisor are assigned, together they fulfill the role of the advisor (that is, neither fulfills any other advisory or examining committee membership requirements for that student). One (1) advisor must be identified as the primary advisor. The advisor and co-advisor share a single vote in matters regarding student progress and performance. Both the advisor and co-advisor's signatures are required on all documents where the advisor's signature is required.

### Student's Advisor/Co-advisor

A student who also holds an appointment at the University of Manitoba as a member of the academic staff with faculty rank cannot have an advisor or co-advisor with an appointment in the same department/unit.

The advisor, co-advisor (if applicable) and student must discuss and complete the Faculty of Graduate Studies Advisor-Student Guidelines

prior to the commencement of any research and no later than the submission of the first Progress Report for the student. If a student does not have an advisor/co-advisor, the interim advisor\* will be required to complete the Advisor-Student Guidelines. If the parties cannot agree on any component(s) of the Advisor-Student Guidelines, the matter should be referred to the Department/Unit Graduate Chair, the Department/Unit Head, or the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. A new Advisor-Student Guidelines is to be completed if there is a change in advisor/co-advisor or when a co-advisor is added or removed midway through the student's program.

Should, during the student's program, the relationship between the student and advisor/co-advisor significantly deteriorate, the matter should be referred sequentially to the Department/Unit Graduate Chair, the Department/Unit Head, then to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. It is the responsibility of the department/unit offering the program in which the student is studying to arrange an alternate advisor/co-advisor if this is appropriate and necessary.

Departments/units who have difficulty finding an alternate advisor need to consult with the Associate Dean working with the department/unit in the Faculty of Graduate Studies for support to pursue all reasonable options given the theoretical and research expertise required of an advisor in relation to the thesis/practicum. If an advisor cannot be secured within one term, the student cannot remain in their program.

\* In departments/units where the choice of thesis/ topic and thesis/ advisor are postponed after a student's entry into the program, the Department/Unit Head, within one (1) term, shall appoint a faculty member to advise the student in the interim period before the regular advisor is assigned or chosen.

All students should consult department/unit supplementary regulations for specific details regarding advisor/co-advisor requirements.

### Advisory Committee

The Department/Unit Head is responsible for recommending the advisory committee for each Ph.D. student. Advisory committees are selected by the advisor/co-advisor in consultation with the student and should consist of individuals whose expertise is consistent with that necessary to provide additional advice and guidance to the student during their program. The advisor/co-advisor is the Chair of the advisory committee.

The advisory committee must consist of a minimum of three (3) voting members (including the advisor/co-advisor as a single member sharing a single vote), all of whom must be members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/graduate-studies-administration/>). It is expected that advisory committee members will have a Ph.D. degree or equivalent. Equivalency will be determined by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies or designate. Department/units must submit a CV and justification for FGS to consider equivalency.

#### Voting Knowledge Expert

In addition to the minimum three members as described above, individuals who are not a member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and who do not hold a Ph.D. degree or equivalent, but who possess specific and extensive expertise and experience, such as professionals, artists, Knowledge Keepers or Elders, may serve on the advisory committee as a full voting member. No more than one such knowledge expert may serve on any individual advisory committee and must be nominated by the Department/Unit Head or Graduate Chair with a justification of their role and be approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies or designate.

### Non-Voting Invited Member

Advisory committees may alternatively include one (1) non-voting invited member who has expertise in a related discipline but is not a member of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Committees may include a Knowledge Expert or invited member, not both.

Under no circumstances are graduate students, Post-Doctoral Fellows, and Research Assistants or Associates registered/employed at any institution to serve on graduate student advisory or examining committees, regardless of whether or not they hold a rank of Adjunct Professor.

The composition of, and any changes to, the advisory committee, including the advisor/co-advisor, must be approved by the Faculty of Graduate Studies on the "Program of Study and Appointment of Advisory Committee (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/forms/#masters-phd-and-other-program-forms>)" form.

Advisory committee meetings must be held at least annually and are not intended to take the place of meetings between the student and advisor/co-advisor which should occur with much greater frequency than the advisory committee meetings.

### Conflict of Interest

There are several circumstances that might lead to a real, perceived or potential Conflict of Interest (COI) in advisory and examining committees. A real COI could be present due to the existence of a (past or present) personal relationship that is romantic, sexual, marital, personal or familial. There is a potential for a perceived COI in cases of recent (within the last 5 years) collaboration among committee members, which may result in the perception of a lack of fairness or impartiality. These examples are not intended to be comprehensive, and are provided solely for illustration. The University of Manitoba Conflict of Interest Policy ([https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/248.html](https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/248.html)) and Conflict of Interest Procedures ([https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/community/962.html](https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/community/962.html)) as well as the Conflict of Interest Between Evaluators and Students due to Close Personal Relationships ([https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/students/277.html](https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/students/277.html)) should also be consulted.

In addition to following the processes outlined in the above policies, COIs that exist within advisory and examining committees and proposed mitigation should be declared in writing to the Faculty of Graduate Studies to provide transparency to all relevant parties (including the student, committee members, unit leadership, and the Faculty of Graduate Studies) at the time they arise. All reported conflicts will be reviewed by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (or designate) and reported to the Vice President (Administration). If the conflict is deemed sufficiently significant and cannot be mitigated, a new committee may need to be struck. Committees should consider each year at the time of the progress report whether new conflicts of interest have arisen since the prior year. If a new conflict of interest has arisen, it must be reported to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

It is the student's role to inform FGS of any changes in their student registration or employment status that may be perceived as a COI. For example, if a student is hired as an Instructor or an Assistant Professor into any department/unit at the university, they are to inform FGS of their employment status change in order to have a dialogue to address potential COIs.

## Program of Study

As soon as possible, but no later than 24 months after a student has commenced their program, the student's program of study should be registered with the Faculty of Graduate Studies on the "Program of Study and Appointment of Advisory Committee (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/forms/>)" form and should include:

- information about the minimum or expected time for completion of the degree;
- coursework to be taken along with course classification ("S", "X", "A" or "O");
- any additional language requirement;
- the research area in which the thesis will be written.

The approval of the student's advisor/co-advisor and the Head of the department/unit are sufficient for registration. The program of study, including withdrawal from individual courses and any subsequent changes, must be approved by the student's advisor/co-advisor, the advisory committee, and the Head or Graduate Chair of the department/unit. Withdrawal from courses or changes of course category without such approval may result in the student being Required to Withdraw from the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

## Program Requirements

All students must complete one of the following programs of study for the Ph.D. degree, unless otherwise specified in the approved department/unit supplementary regulations:

- Where admission to the Ph.D. is directly from a Master's degree, a minimum of 12 credit hours at the 7000-level or higher plus a thesis is required. Any further coursework beyond the minimum 12 credit hours at the 7000-level must be at the 3000-level or above. A maximum of 24 credit hours of coursework is allowed toward the Ph.D. program.<sup>1</sup>
- Where admission to the Ph.D. is directly from an Honours Bachelor degree or equivalent, a minimum of 24 credit hours plus a thesis is required. The coursework must include a minimum of 18 credit hours at the 7000-level or higher with the balance of the coursework at the 3000-level or higher. A maximum of 48 credit hours of coursework is allowed toward the Ph.D. program unless department's/unit's supplementary regulations indicate otherwise.

### Language Requirements

Some departments/units specify a language requirement for the Ph.D. degree. Students are advised to consult department/unit supplementary regulations regarding this requirement.

### Advance Credit

Advance credit for courses completed prior to admission to a Ph.D. program will be considered on a case-by-case basis. The student's department/unit makes the request to the Faculty of Graduate Studies by completing the "Advance Credit-Transfer of Courses (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/forms/>)" form.

- Application for advance credit must be made within the first year of the program (please refer to Lapse or Expiration of Credit of Courses (p. 4))
- No more than 50% of the required coursework for the program can be achieved using advance credit.

- A course may not be used for credit toward more than one degree, diploma, micro-diploma or certificate.
- The student must register at the University of Manitoba for at least two consecutive terms and must also complete the thesis and candidacy examination at The University of Manitoba. Regardless of the extent of advance credit received, all students are required to pay applicable program fees.

## Transfer Credit

Courses within a program of study may be taken elsewhere and transferred for credit at the University of Manitoba. Students must make a formal application (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/programs-study/courses-taken-elsewhere/>) to take courses elsewhere. All such courses:

- must be approved for transfer to the program of study by the department/unit and the Faculty of Graduate Studies before the student may register for them;
- are considered on an individual basis;
- cannot be used for credit towards another degree, diploma, micro-diploma or certificate;
- may not exceed 50% of the minimum credit hours of coursework required of the student's graduate program at The University of Manitoba.

## Lapse or Expiration of Credit of Courses

Courses completed more than seven (7) years prior to the date of awarding of a degree may not usually be used for credit toward that degree. A department/unit may request an exception to this limit on behalf of the student. Such requests, which will be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, must be submitted via the "Course Currency (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/forms/#masters-phd-and-other-program-forms>)" form and accompanied by supporting information including a detailed summary of the content of the course as taken initially and as offered most recently, and a detailed rationale explaining how the student has maintained knowledge of the course content. If the Faculty of Graduate Studies approves the course's currency, the approval will be valid for one (1) year. After one (1) year, an updated "Course Currency" form may be required.

Courses completed more than ten (10) years prior to the date of awarding of a degree are deemed expired and cannot be used for credit toward that degree.

In the event that coursework is no longer considered current or has expired, students must take additional course-work (as recommended by the Department/Unit Head, or designate, and as approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies) to meet the minimum credit hour requirements for their program. The department/unit may recommend that students re-take previously passed course(s) which have lapsed or expired.

## Time in Program

The minimum time requirement for the program of study for a Ph.D. degree will usually be two (2) years of study beyond the level of the Master's degree, or three (3) years beyond the level of a Bachelor's degree.

The maximum time allowed for the completion of the Ph.D. degree is six (6) years following initial registration in the Ph.D. program. For those

students who transfer from the Master's to the Ph.D., years spent in the Master's program are counted as years in the Ph.D. program.

Ph.D. students who are declared as part-time will receive an additional four (4) months in time to complete their program for every two (2) years (24 months) they are declared as part time (see Student Status/ Categories of Students (<https://catalog.umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/academic-guide/application-admission-registration-policies/#Student-Status>)) to a maximum of seven (7) years.

Requests for extensions of time to complete the degree will be considered using the "Time Extension Request (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/forms/#masters-phd-and-other-program-forms>)" form submitted to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies at the beginning of the student's last term in program, prior to expiration of the respective maximum time limit. Time extension requests require an explanation of the need for the extension and the goals to be met during the extension period as well as a timeline for meeting the stated goals. Future extensions will be considered only if there is evidence progress was made on the goals outlined in the previous extension request. If progress is not evident, the request must describe the circumstances that prevented progress on the identified goals. Extensions also must recognize the grad deadlines for the respective graduation period.

A student who has not completed the degree requirements within the time limit or within the time limit of any extension that has been granted (please refer to "Extension of Time to Complete Program of Study (<https://catalog.umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/academic-guide/extension-time-complete-program-study/>)" and "Leaves of Absence (<https://catalog.umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/academic-guide/leaves-absence/>)") will be Required to Withdraw from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the notation on the student record will be "Required to Withdraw".

## Academic Performance

Student progress shall be reported **at least** annually (but no more than once every four (4) months) to the Faculty of Graduate Studies on the "Progress Report (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/forms/>)" form. Performance that remains "Satisfactory" throughout the year does not need to be reported to the Faculty of Graduate Studies more than annually, but should remain on file in the department/unit.

Students who fail to maintain satisfactory performance may be Required to Withdraw on the recommendation of the Graduate Chair and/or Department/Unit Head to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies on the "Progress Report" form. Students who receive two (2) consecutive "in need of improvement" or one (1) "unsatisfactory" rating will usually be Required to Withdraw from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the notation on the student record will be "Required to Withdraw".

## Performance in Coursework

A minimum degree grade point average (DGPA) of 3.0 with no grade below C+ must be maintained to continue in the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Departments/Units may specify, in their supplementary regulations, standards that are higher than those of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Students who fail to maintain the specified grades or DGPA will be Required to Withdraw unless a department/unit recommends remedial action. Any such action must be approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.



## Performance Not Related to Coursework

Students may be Required to Withdraw from their Ph.D. program for reasons of unsatisfactory performance other than those related to failing grades. These include, but are not restricted to, unsatisfactory attendance and lack of progress in research and/or thesis preparation. Unsatisfactory performance must be reported to the Faculty of Graduate Studies on the "Progress Report (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/forms/>)" form. Students who fail to maintain satisfactory performance may be Required to Withdraw on the recommendation of the Department/Unit Head to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Students are usually expected to complete remedial action by the end of the subsequent term.

## Academic Requirements for Graduation

All students must:

- maintain a minimum degree grade point average (DGPA) of 3.0 with no grade below C+;
- complete GRAD 7500
- complete GRAD 7300
- complete the Candidacy Examination (GRAD 8010);
- meet the minimum and not exceed the maximum course requirements; and
- meet the minimum and not exceed the maximum time requirements (in terms of time in program and lapse or expiration of credit of courses).

Individual departments/units may have additional specific requirements for graduation and students should consult department/unit supplementary regulations for these specific requirements. A degree grade point average of 3.0 or greater is required in those courses that constitute the program of study for graduation from the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

## Candidacy Examination

The candidacy examination is a requirement of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and, as such, cannot be waived under any circumstances. However, the format and content of the candidacy exam varies from department/unit to department/unit. The purpose of the candidacy exam in doctoral programs is to determine the student's competence in the discipline with respect to understanding and absorbing a broad spectrum of material, and then researching, identifying, analyzing, synthesizing, and communicating ideas about that material in depth.

At the time specified by the advisory committee, usually within the first year after the completion of the Ph.D. program coursework, but in no case later than one year prior to expected graduation, the student must successfully complete the formal candidacy examination.

The examination is conducted according to a procedure established by the department/unit which is approved and documented in departmental/unit supplementary regulations. The department/unit supplementary regulations state the format and composition of the examination committee for the candidacy examination. The candidacy examination may be held virtually. If it is held in-person, it must be held at either The University of Manitoba Fort Garry or Bannatyne campus, or the St. Boniface Hospital Albrechtsen Research Centre usually during regular business hours. No recordings will be permitted.

This examination, which must be independent from the thesis proposal, may be oral, written, or both and may cover subjects relevant to the general area of the student's research. The structure of the exam must be made known to the student well in advance of the exam. In the case where there is a required oral component, the student must participate in-person or virtually.

A "pass" decision of the examiners must be unanimous. Students must be provided with feedback on their performance and access to the reasons for the pass/fail.

The Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies must be informed of the results of the examination via the "Report on Ph.D. Candidacy Examination (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/forms/#masters-phd-and-other-program-forms>)" form.

Any student who fails the candidacy examination twice will be Required to Withdraw from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the notation on the student record will be "Required to Withdraw".

On successful completion of this examination, the student will be considered a candidate for the Ph.D. degree.

## Thesis Proposal

Some departments/units have specific procedures in place for approval of thesis proposals and students are advised to refer to the specific department/unit supplementary regulations. The thesis proposal must be independent from the candidacy examination. No recordings will be permitted of the evaluation of the thesis proposal.

The proposed thesis research must be approved by the advisory committee and, if necessary, by the Human Research Ethics Board or Animal Care Committee before the work has begun on the thesis research or project.

## Thesis

An essential feature of Ph.D. study is the candidate's demonstration of competence to complete a research project and present the findings. The thesis must constitute a distinct contribution to knowledge in the major field of study, and the research must be of sufficient merit to be, in the judgement of the examiners, acceptable for publication. The thesis will usually be written in English but may be written in French. Departmental/Unit supplementary regulations may allow the thesis to be written in a language other than English or French. Committee members must be able to evaluate the thesis in the chosen language.

The thesis must be written according to a standard style acknowledged within the candidate's particular field of study and recommended by the department/unit, be lucid and well-written, and be reasonably free from errors of style and grammar (including typographical errors). Additional recommendations for a thesis are outlined in Thesis/Practicum Types (<https://catalog.umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/academic-guide/thesis-practicum-types/>).

The final version of the thesis must be submitted by the candidate to the Faculty of Graduate Studies following the guidelines found on the Faculty's website. (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/student-experience/thesis-and-practicum/>)

## Thesis Examination Procedures

The final examination for the Ph.D. degree proceeds in two (2) stages:

1. Examination of the candidate's thesis by the examining committee;
2. Oral examination of the candidate by all examiners on the subject of the thesis and any matters relating thereto.

### Formation of the Examining Committee - University of Manitoba (Internal) Examiners

The candidate's advisor/co-advisor is considered to be a single voting member of the examining committee. All voting members of the advisory committee are expected to serve on the examining committee; any exceptions must be approved in advance by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. All examiners must be members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies ([https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate\\_studies/governance/academic\\_membership.html](https://umanitoba.ca/faculties/graduate_studies/governance/academic_membership.html)). It is expected that examining committee members will have a Ph.D. degree or equivalent. Equivalency will be determined by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

### Formation of the Examining Committee - External Examiner

The candidate's advisor/co-advisor, in consultation with the advisory committee, will recommend the names of at least three (3) distinguished scholars from outside The University of Manitoba with particular experience in the field of the thesis research and significant Ph.D. student supervisory/examination experience to serve as the external examiner. The external examiner provides an impartial arm's-length assessment of whether the thesis meets the standard of a PhD. The recommendations must be made to the Dean (or designate) of the Faculty of Graduate Studies for approval online and must include:

- A CV of each of the prospective external examiners;
- A short justification for the nomination that addresses:
  - The rationale behind the recommendations;
  - The prospective external examiners' qualifications (if not already explicit on the CV). This includes a current list of their scholarly publications and research activities and, importantly, their experience with Ph.D. student supervision/examination (e.g., Ph.D. students they have supervised to completion; Ph.D. students they are currently supervising; experience serving as external examiner for Ph.D. examining committees).

Advisors and/or departments/units **must** contact the prospective external examiners to obtain this information and determine if they are available to review the thesis prior to submitting the recommendations to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

If any of the recommended examiners do not meet the criteria specified below, a detailed explanation must be included with the rationale for the recommendation.

The external examiner must:

- hold a Ph.D. (or equivalent);
- hold the rank of Associate Professor, Full Professor, Senior Scholar or Emeritus Professor (or the equivalent if outside North America) at a university, or have comparable expertise and standing if not a current faculty member at a university;
- have an established reputation in the area of the thesis research and be able to judge whether the thesis would be acceptable at an institution comparable to The University of Manitoba; and
- have a demonstrated record of supervising a significant number of Ph.D. students to completion, and significant recent experience with the supervision/examination of Ph.D. students.

The external examiner must not:

- have held any faculty appointment within the candidate's home department/unit at the University of Manitoba within the last ten (10) years;
- have acted as an external examiner for a student of the same Ph.D. advisor and/or co-advisor within the previous two (2) years;
- be a Postdoctoral Fellow;
- have been associated with the candidate at any time or in any significant way in the past five (5) years, present or reasonably foreseeable future (as advisor/co-advisor, colleague, teacher, co-author of published material, family member etc.); or
- be associated with the candidate's advisor/co-advisor in any of the following ways:
  - former student within the last ten (10) years;
  - research advisor/co-advisor within the last ten (10) years;
  - research collaborator within the last five (5) years;
  - co-author of published material within the last five (5) years.

The Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies or designate will choose the external examiner from the list provided by the candidate's advisor/co-advisor or department/unit and will extend a formal invitation to the selected examiner. The Dean (or designate) of the Faculty of Graduate Studies shall ensure the anonymity of the external examiner until their report has been submitted. The identity of the selected examiner shall remain confidential until all reports on the thesis have been received.

### Changes in the Examining Committee

The Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies must approve changes in the membership of the examining committee. No changes shall be made in the examining committee after the thesis is submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

### Submission of the Thesis for Examination

Ph.D. candidates must submit their thesis for written examination electronically through the Faculty of Graduate Studies approved thesis examination process. Please refer to the website (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/student-experience/thesis-and-practicum/submit-your-thesis-or-practicum/>) for pertinent instructions. It is the responsibility of the Faculty of Graduate Studies to distribute the electronic version of the thesis to all examiners once an external examiner has been secured. The Faculty of Graduate Studies shall ensure that the thesis is distributed to examiners as soon as possible after the submission of all required documentation. The Faculty of Graduate Studies website (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/student-experience/thesis-and-practicum/submit-your-thesis-or-practicum/#submitting-your-thesis-to-committee-members>) should be consulted regarding recommended dates by which theses must be submitted.

Once the thesis has been submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies, neither the candidate nor the advisor/co-advisor shall have any communication with the examining committee regarding the thesis.

However, should the need arise, the examiners may contact the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies to discuss any issues related to the thesis.

### Responsibilities of the Examiners

The examiners are responsible for:

- ensuring that the thesis and the candidate meet recognized scholarly standards for a Ph.D.;

- appraising the underlying assumptions, methodology, findings, and scholarly significance of the findings of the thesis;
- ensuring that the thesis is organized, presents data and uses accepted conventions for addressing the scholarly literature in an acceptable manner;
- evaluating that the candidate has the ability to present their findings orally and demonstrate their scholarship by responding to questions and defending the thesis.

#### Notes:

1. Any potential breach of academic integrity must be reported to the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
2. Any potential breach of The University of Manitoba's Responsible Conduct of Research Policy ([https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing\\_documents/research/responsible\\_conduct\\_of\\_research.html](https://umanitoba.ca/admin/governance/governing_documents/research/responsible_conduct_of_research.html)) must be reported to the Office of the Vice President (Research and International).
3. Submission of previously published, peer-reviewed material in the thesis does not preclude its critical examination, either as a written document being reviewed by examiners or at the thesis oral examination.

### Written Examination

Support of the candidate's advisor/co-advisor, advisory committee, and department/unit is required before the thesis is eligible for examination. Such support must be provided to the Faculty of Graduate Studies via the completed "Approval to Proceed to Examination (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/forms/>)" form. In completing the "Approval to Proceed to Examination" form:

- each member of the advisory committee verifies that they have read the complete version of the thesis and have provided the candidate with a detailed review and comments including any necessary revisions in content and formatting (see Appendix 1);
- the student verifies that they have received feedback from all members of the advisory committee and have taken the feedback into account in preparing the thesis and are ready and willing to have their thesis examined; and
- the department/unit verifies that the student's thesis has been reviewed by all members of the advisory committee and that the department/unit fully supports the thesis proceeding for examination.

The thesis will be eligible for examination if support for proceeding to the written examination is provided by the department/unit and examining committee, with no more than one (1) member not in support, and if an external examiner has been secured by the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

The Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies will request the examiners to give, within four (4) weeks of the distribution of the thesis to the examining committee, a detailed report on the quality of the thesis. This is referred to as the "written examination" stage of the thesis examination process.

The examiners (including the knowledge expert, if applicable) will be asked to place the thesis into one of the following categories:

1. Pass: The thesis represents a distinct contribution to the candidate's field of research and is acceptable as it stands. Minor revisions to content, structure, or writing style may be required. The thesis may proceed to oral examination.

2. Pass: The thesis has merit and makes a contribution to the candidate's field; however, there are research-related concerns that have the potential to be addressed in the oral examination. The structure and writing style are acceptable or require only minor revisions. The thesis may proceed to oral examination.
3. Fail: The thesis has some merit but is not acceptable in its current state and requires major revisions to one or more of its core components, such as research content, structure or writing style. The thesis should not proceed to oral examination.
4. Fail: The thesis is unacceptable with respect to its core components, such as research content, structure, and writing style. The thesis should not proceed to oral examination.

The candidate's advisor (and co-advisor if applicable) may also submit a report. Invited members may submit a report; however, as they serve in a non-voting capacity, they are not to categorize the thesis (i.e., evaluate its merit).

### Results

The Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies shall provide electronic copies of all reports to each of the advisor/co-advisor, internal examiners, knowledge expert or invited member, Department/Unit Head and/or Graduate Chair and Department/Unit contact.

If either the external examiner or two (2) or more internal examiners indicate a failure (i.e., places the thesis in categories 3 or 4), then the candidate fails the written examination and cannot proceed to the oral examination. Otherwise, the written examination is deemed a "Pass" and the candidate may proceed to the oral examination. The awarding of a passing grade by an internal or external examiner does not preclude them from assigning a failing grade at a subsequent stage in the examination process.

In the event of a first failure, the candidate will be permitted a second attempt at the written examination, consisting of the evaluation of the thesis by the same examining committee. In exceptional circumstances, a new external examiner may need to be secured before an additional attempt may proceed. When notice of a failed examination is received, the Department/Unit Head shall convene a meeting of the internal examiners of the examining committee and the candidate's advisor/co-advisor to decide how to bring the thesis to an acceptable scholarly standard. Usually, this will involve additional scholarly work and revisions to the written thesis that the Department/Unit Head will describe in writing to the advisor/co-advisor, the candidate, and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Without this written description, the thesis will not be eligible for re-examination.

Support of the candidate's advisor/co-advisor, examining committee, and department/unit is required before the thesis is eligible for re-examination. Such support must be provided to the Faculty of Graduate Studies via a new completed "Approval to Proceed to Examination" form, accompanied by a detailed summary of the changes made to improve the thesis. The thesis will be eligible for re-examination only after approval this is received by Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Two failures at any combination of written and/or oral examination stages will result in the candidate being withdrawn from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the notation on the student record will be "Required to Withdraw".

## Oral Examination

Please consult the Faculty of Graduate Studies website (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/student-experience/thesis-and-practicum/phd-oral-examination/>) for up-to-date and detailed guidelines for the conduct of Ph.D. Oral Examinations.

### Scheduling

Departments/units cannot proceed with scheduling the oral examination prior to receiving the approved internal and external examiners' reports from the Faculty of Graduate Studies. It is the responsibility of the Advisor and/or department/unit to contact the internal and external committee members to determine their availability and arrange a date for the examination.

The oral examination may be held in-person, remotely, or using a hybrid model. Any in-person participants must be hosted at either The University of Manitoba Fort Garry or Bannatyne campus or the St. Boniface Hospital Albrechtsen Research Centre, usually during regular business hours unless prior permission is granted by the Dean of FGS. It is the responsibility of the department/unit to provide the appropriate space and technology for their chosen delivery method(s) (i.e., room booking, ensuring that the chosen facilities meet minimum standards expected for a Ph.D. oral examination, determining the meeting platform to be used). The advisor or department/unit must inform the Faculty of Graduate Studies of the following information no later than two (2) weeks (10 working days) prior to the date of the examination:

- Examination details:
  - The date and time of the examination (Central time);
  - The method of delivery (i.e., in-person, remote, or hybrid);
  - The location and/or virtual meeting platform to be used; and
  - Whether the external examiner and invited member (if applicable) will attend.
- Chair details:
  - Full name;
  - Email address;
  - Department/unit.

In addition, the candidate must submit biographical information/CV and an abstract, not to exceed 350 words, of the thesis to the Faculty of Graduate Studies at least two (2) weeks (10 working days) in advance of the date of the oral examination.

An eligible chair must be secured before the examination details listed above may be submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. If the department/unit and/or advisor/co-advisor encounter difficulties in securing a chair, they should contact the Faculty of Graduate Studies for assistance. The method of delivery (i.e., in-person, virtual, or hybrid) must be disclosed to prospective chairs. Prospective chairs must:

- Be members of the Faculty of Graduate Studies (excluding nil-salaried adjunct appointments);
- Hold a rank of Assistant Professor or above; and
- Not hold an appointment, including nil-salaried appointments (e.g., Adjunct) in any unit represented by the advisor and co-advisor.

### Attendance

The Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies or designate shall approve the Chair of the oral examination proceedings. The Faculty of Graduate

Studies will provide the Chair with an electronic package of documents and forms one week before the examination is scheduled to take place.

The attendance of the external examiner at the candidate's oral examination is strongly encouraged. If the external examiner cannot participate, they will be asked to provide questions in advance. These questions will be read to the candidate at the oral examination by the Chair.

It is expected that all internal members of the examining committee, including the Knowledge Expert (if applicable), be present in real time at the oral examination. Under exceptional circumstances, and with the prior approval of the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies, one (1) member may be absent from the proceedings.

The candidate and advisor/co-advisor must be present in real time for the examination.

Usually, the oral examination shall be open to all members of The University of Manitoba community and the general public. In exceptional cases the final oral examination may be closed; for example, when the results of the thesis research must be kept confidential. In such cases, the examination committee and Department/Unit Head shall request prior approval in writing from the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. If approved, the final oral examination shall be closed to all but the examining committee and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies or designate.

Regardless of open or closed status and method of delivery, no recordings will be permitted.

### Format of the Examination

The first part of the oral examination shall consist of an oral presentation by the candidate. This is followed by examination of the candidate by the examination committee (i.e., a question-and-answer period). If time permits, the Chair, at their discretion, may allow questions from the invited member (if applicable) of the examining committee and then members of the audience.

### Procedures for the Conduct of the Examination

The Chair should discuss the examination procedures with the examiners prior to the beginning of the formal examination.

The Chair will introduce the candidate and request them to give a concise (20 to 25 minute) oral presentation of the thesis to include a summary of the problem addressed, the results obtained, and the conclusions drawn from the study.

Following the presentation, the Chair will invite questions from each member of the examining committee, taking care to ensure that each examiner has approximately equal time for questions. The total time for questions by the examining committee must not exceed two (2) hours.

The Chair may exercise their discretion in allowing questions from the audience following completion of the formal examination. Once assuming the role of Chair, they forego the right to comment on the merits of the thesis regardless of whether they are an expert in the field.

### Decision of the Committee

Following completion of the formal examination, the candidate, invited member (if applicable) of the examining committee and audience must leave the examination room or virtual meeting for the committee's *in-camera* discussion and final evaluation. The decision of the examining committee will be based on the content of the thesis, the



candidate's ability to defend their work, and the candidate's ability to accurately respond to questions posed by the examining committee. The performance of the candidate at the oral examination may reveal problems of comprehension or explanation, and the examining committee may require revisions be made to the written thesis to address these problems prior to granting final approval. Each examiner is expected to comment on the candidate's performance and vote in favour of assigning either a pass or fail grade for the examination. Co-advisors share a single vote.

The judgement of the examiners shall be reported by the Chair to the Faculty of Graduate Studies in the qualitative terms "pass" or "fail" on the Final Examination of the Ph.D. Thesis Chair Report Form. Each examiner must also indicate their vote on the Final Examination of the Ph.D. Thesis Approval Form, which will be submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies by the Advisor once all required revisions have been made.

- **Pass:** the candidate has satisfactorily presented the thesis rationale, methodology, findings, and conclusions to the general satisfaction of the examining committee. Notwithstanding this, stylistic, grammatical, and content revisions to the thesis may be required. Usually, the advisor/co-advisor is charged with ensuring that any revisions are satisfactorily completed. Under some circumstances, the entire examining committee may wish to ensure any required revisions are completed satisfactorily. Regardless, those examiners in agreement must indicate, by their signatures, concurrence with the passing grade.
- **Fail:** the candidate has failed to adequately orally present the thesis rationale, methodology, findings, and/or conclusions, or to satisfactorily respond to questions posed related to the thesis. Failure may also arise because of defects in conception, methodology, or context. Those examiners in agreement must indicate, by their signature, concurrence with the failing grade.

If either the external examiner or two (2) or more internal examiners indicate a failure, then the candidate fails the examination.

In the case of a first failure of the oral examination, the candidate will be allowed to undergo a second examination attempt, provided the thesis has not already received a failure at the written examination stage. In this case, the Department/Unit Head shall convene a meeting of the internal members of the examining committee and the candidate's advisor/co-advisor to decide how to bring the thesis to an acceptable scholarly standard and/or prepare for the second oral examination. Usually, this will involve additional scholarly work which the Department/Unit Head will describe, in writing, to the advisor/co-advisor, the candidate, and the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

Eligibility for re-examination must be communicated to the Faculty of Graduate Studies via the submission by the Department/Unit Head of a new completed "Approval to Proceed to Examination (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/forms/#masters-phd-and-other-program-forms>)" form, accompanied by a detailed summary of the changes made to improve the thesis, if any. Once all required materials are received, the summary of revisions and a copy of the revised thesis (if applicable) will be provided to the examining committee for review in anticipation of a second oral examination attempt.

**Note:** In some circumstances, the candidate may revise the written thesis. The revised thesis will be provided to the committee prior to the next oral examination. The revised written thesis shall not be re-examined (i.e., examiners are not to assign a category or provide a report on the

revised thesis); however, further revisions can be recommended at the oral examination.

Two failures at any combination of written and/or oral examination stages will result in the candidate being withdrawn from the Faculty of Graduate Studies and the notation on the student record will be "Required to Withdraw".

## Graduation

The candidate will be recommended for the Ph.D. degree providing that all degree requirements have been satisfied, and upon receipt by the Faculty of Graduate Studies:

- Passing reports by the thesis examining committee;
- The completed Final Examination of the Ph.D. Thesis Chair Report and Approval forms; and
- The final (corrected) version of the thesis uploaded digitally through MSpace, the university's institutional repository.

The final requirements of the degree must be submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies by the appropriate deadline. The deadline for each graduation period is published on the Faculty of Graduate Studies website (<https://umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/student-experience/thesis-and-practicum/submit-your-thesis-or-practicum/#submitting-your-thesis-to-committee-members>).

**Patents** – Refer to "Policy of Withholding Theses Pending Patent Applications (<https://catalog.umanitoba.ca/graduate-studies/academic-guide/policy-withholding-thesis-pending-patent-application-content-manuscript-submission/>)".

**Restriction of Theses for Publication** – In exceptional cases, not covered by the regulation concerning patents, where adequate cause can be shown to delay publication, the student and advisor/co-advisor may request in writing that the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies restrict access for a period up to two (2) years after the submission of the digital version of a thesis to The University of Manitoba. The Dean shall determine for what period, if any, access will be restricted based on the request. One additional year of restriction can be requested if needed.

A thesis cannot be permanently restricted on the university's MSpace repository. It can only be restricted under the above embargo periods of two years plus one additional year.

**Library and Archives Canada** – Library and Archives Canada obtains a copy of the thesis via the university's MSpace repository.

## Student Withdrawal

A student will be Required to Withdraw when the Ph.D. thesis has been rejected twice at the stage where:

1. The internal examining committee reports on the merits of the written thesis;
2. The external examiner reports on the merits of the written thesis;
3. The oral examination; or
4. A combination of any of these stages.