Dissertation and Thesis Defense

You know more about your subject than anyone else in the room!

April 23, 2020 for GROW by Dr. Faye Bruun, Program Coordinator of Ph.D. in C&I
Defending your dissertation

• The Preparation
• The Defense
• Follow-up


Preparation

• Attend the defenses of some of your doctoral colleagues in your department.
• It is very important to adhere to graduate school rules and deadlines covering the scheduling of a defense.
• Go to Graduate Studies to see deadlines. Doctoral dates
Preparation

• Begin very early to schedule and coordinate the date, time and place for the defense. Committee members and chairs have very busy schedules.

• Last day to submit form E-Preliminary Agreement to Schedule the Dissertation Defense (8 weeks prior to graduation)

• Last day to defend: (6 weeks prior to graduation)

• Last day to submit final version of dissertation, survey of earned doctorates (SED), and dissertation fee: (4 weeks prior to graduation)

• form-e---preliminary-agreement-to-schedule-the-dissertation
Preparation

• Have your manuscript reviewed before the defense to be sure it is consistent with formatting requirements. You want to present a polished document for the faculty to work with in preparation for the defense. (two weeks before defense)
• Dissertation Thesis formatting
Preparation

• Ask your chairs what questions and issues might be raised during the defense. Prepare to address them.

• Organize your material for presentation. Create flawless presentation of the material you will be covering on the defense. Finally, practice presenting the material and answering questions. Practice, practice, practice...
Defense meetings

• Meetings may begin with brief comments by the chair followed by your comments thanking advisors and committee members for their time and efforts on your behalf.

• Your presentation material should briefly cover the research question, literature review as it relates to your theory, methods and analysis, major findings and recommendations for future research. form-g-graduate-faculty-representative-report
Defense meetings

• After your presentation, the committee may take turns asking you questions and discussing among themselves points of interest or disagreement.

• Two questions to anticipate include identifying the weaknesses of your study and post-dissertation research plans.

• When all questions have been asked and answered, you will be asked to leave the room while the committee deliberates. At this time faculty will be deciding by vote whether to pass you on your defense and dissertation.
Defense meetings

• The desired outcome of this meeting is the chair's greeting you with the statement "Congratulations, Dr. _." The defense was successful and the committee has passed your dissertation.

• Report: Dissertation/Project Defense and Written Report
Post defense

- Next day, attend to the revisions the committee asked you make to the work.
- You will be required to provide bound copies to your department and library. Create a budget for handling the incidentals related to publishing and ordering additional copies of your manuscript.
- Order or rent your regalia for “hooding” and graduation.