Requirements for PhD Dissertation Defense

A satisfactory dissertation must be completed, approved by the student’s graduate advisory committee, and defended in a final oral examination (i.e., Ph.D. dissertation defense). The defense is a momentous milestone in the path towards a PhD.

The defense consists of a public presentation with period of questions followed by a session involving the graduate advisory committee. The advisor(s) should confirm the details of the exam with the committee before the exam itself.

The student must schedule the defense through the main office at least four weeks prior to the proposed date. This involves establishing and providing the following information:

- Date, Time, and Location of the defense
- Title and Abstract of presentation
- List of committee members

The student must provide a copy of the dissertation to the graduate advisory committee three weeks before the exam.