

2 **Behavioral and Brain Sciences**
3 **April 2019**

4
5 **Objectives and Purposes**

6 The overarching goal of the doctoral program in Behavioral and Brain Sciences (BBS) is to
7 prepare students for successful careers as scholars in academic or other professional settings.
8 Students start work on the general Master of Science (MS) requirements and upon completion,
9 pursue more targeted study, as specified for the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) requirements. BBS
10 students develop advanced expertise in any of an extensive range of specialty topic areas
11 supported by our diverse faculty. Students are encouraged to devise programs of study best
12 suited to their particular needs and aspirations, and work in conjunction with the guidance and
13 approval of their major professors and advisory committees.

14
15 **General Definitions and Descriptions**

16 **Major Professor**

17 As advanced graduate education proceeds primarily via an apprenticeship model, the choice of
18 mentors is an important decision in students' graduate careers. Students enter the BBS program
19 with a plan to work with one (or sometimes two) Major Professor(s). The Graduate School
20 requires that the Major Professor is a member of the UGA Graduate Faculty to supervise
21 master's theses and doctoral dissertations. Students' academic and research interests can undergo
22 significant changes, especially during the first two years of study. If students desire additional or
23 different mentorship, it should be addressed with the current Major Professor(s) and the
24 Psychology Graduate Coordinator.

25
26 **Advisory Committees**

27 Advisory committees serve important roles in shaping students' educational plans, assessing
28 progress and conducting evaluations. The Master's Advisory Committee serves the student
29 through the defense of the Master's Thesis, at which point the student appoints a Doctoral
30 Advisory Committee. Committee membership is negotiated between students and their Major
31 Professors, and is subject to approval by both the Psychology Graduate Coordinator and the
32 Dean of the Graduate School. *Students are encouraged to select members with the greatest*
33 *expertise in the relevant content areas (without concern for departmental affiliation).*

34 Committees are chaired by the Major Professors. The composition of the two committees
35 detailed below may differ completely, or not at all.

36 *Master's Advisory Committee (MAC):* The MAC consists of three members (minimum)
37 named before the end of the first semester. Typically, members are all UGA graduate faculty,
38 although exceptions are permitted. For information on atypical committee membership see link. (
39 [http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/masters-degrees/)
40 [offered/masters-degrees/](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/masters-degrees/)) Students develop plans for an initial first year "Program of Study" (in
41 consultation with their Major Professors) and subject to approval by the MAC. Inclusive in the
42 plans are a) projected course selection, b) approval of the first year research and c) evaluation of
43 the written Master's Thesis and oral Defense.

44 *Doctoral Advisory Committee (DAC):* The DAC consists of three people (minimum)
45 named before the end of the first year of doctoral study. At least three members of UGA
46 Graduate Faculty are required. Typically, one non-Psychology faculty member is permitted but
47 not required. For information on inclusion of provisional graduate faculty or non-UGA faculty,
48 or consideration of committees with more than three members, see link. (
49 [http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-advisory-committee/)
50 [offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-advisory-committee/](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-advisory-committee/)) Students develop
51 plans for the doctoral Program of Study, in consultation with the Major Professor and subject to
52 approval of the DAC. Additionally, the DAC is charged with a) conducting the Comprehensive
53 Written and Oral Examinations, b) approving the Dissertation Prospectus, and c) evaluating the
54 completed Dissertation and the final Defense.

55 56 **Program of Study**

57 A Program of Study constitutes a minimal contract between students and the University,
58 specifying the course requirements necessary for consideration of a graduate degree. Each
59 Program of Study (and any subsequent changes) is developed in consultation with the Major
60 Professor and must be approved by the majority of the appropriate advisory committee, the
61 Graduate Coordinator, and the Dean of the Graduate School.

62 *Master's Degree:* The MS Program of Study is filed with the Graduate School by “Friday
63 of the second full week of classes of the semester in which degree requirements are completed”
64 (per Graduate School documents).

65 *Doctoral Degree:* A preliminary PhD Program of Study must be filed by the end of the
66 first year of doctoral training. The final version of the document is submitted “prior to
67 notification of the comprehensive examination.” See link. ([http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-programs-of-study/)
68 [students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-programs-of-study/)
69 [phd/doctor-of-philosophy-programs-of-study/](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-programs-of-study/))

70
71 **Proseminar:** Throughout the duration of their training, all BBS students enroll in the Proseminar
72 each fall and spring semester (1 unit of 7100 course credit for master’s students or 1 unit of 9100
73 for doctoral students). Topics vary to include: a) research content and methodology, b) teaching
74 skills, and c) professional development. Guest speakers provide exposure to cutting-edge
75 research and help build professional networks. The Proseminar provides multiple opportunities
76 for students to present their research to program faculty and graduate peers. Students present
77 talks in Year 2 (12 minutes), Year 3 (25 minutes) and Year 4 or 5 (50 minutes). Proseminar 7100
78 and 9100 credits count towards course requirements.

79
80 **Second Year Talk:** In the first year of training, all BBS students conduct a research project
81 (PSYC 7000 “Master’s Research”). The work is presented to the program faculty and student
82 peers during the second year fall semester. All students complete this research requirement
83 whether or not they pursue a master’s degree at UGA. If not pursuing a Master’s Degree, the
84 course numbers 8330 (“Laboratory Apprenticeship”) and 9000 (“Doctoral Research”) allow
85 students to use these courses on their doctoral Programs of Study.

86
87

Master of Science (MS) Degree Criteria

MS Degree: Admitted students are expected to complete the criteria for a MS degree. Initially, students confer with their MAC to develop a Program of Study that supports their training goals.

The MS Program of Study requires at least 30 hours of combined research and class hours. For Graduate School Master's Degree Requirements, see link.

(<http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/masters-degrees/>)

Research Hours (9 hrs): Students complete exactly 9 research hours using the following combination: 6 hours via Psych 7000 and 3 hours via Psych 7300.

Course Hours (21 hrs): Students fulfill 21 hours, or the equivalent of 7 (3 hour) classes.

Course selection: Students take two classes in quantitative methods/experimental design (Psych 6420 and 6430), or equivalents approved by their Major Professors and the departmental Quantitative Committee. To fulfill additional hours, students use 7100, as well as departmental class offerings at the 6000 or 7000 level. The criterion may be satisfied in part by taking classes in other departments (as approved by Major Professor).

Master's Thesis

Written thesis: The Master's Thesis is written under the direction of the Major Professor, who approves the final version before it is distributed to the MAC. Per Graduate School policies, committee members are provided three weeks to read the document, and at least two members must approve the thesis as ready for a final defense.

Oral defense: The oral defense of the written Thesis is open to the public. "The defense is attended by all members of the committee simultaneously for the entire defense period. The defense consists of a public presentation followed by a private defense during which only the student and advisory committee will be in attendance" (per Graduate School documents). Non-chair committee members may attend via teleconference or videoconference, if necessary.

If the summary vote of the MAC is a Pass (with no more than one dissenting vote), then the Thesis and Defense of the Master's Degree are successfully completed. The MAC signs the necessary paperwork, the student has completed their master's requirements and initiates work on doctoral requirements. If the result is a No Pass, the student may request another opportunity to take the oral defense.

For important information on relevant Master's Degree timing, deadlines and other details determined by the Graduate School, see link. (<http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/masters-degrees/>)

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) Degree Criteria

PhD Degree: *The PhD Program of Study and other PhD requirements are additional requisites beyond those completed for the MS Degree.* Awarding of the PhD Degree is contingent upon a) a minimum of 30 hours of doctoral level class and research hours, b) satisfactory performance on both the written and oral Comprehensive Examinations, c) submission and successful oral

132 Defense of a Dissertation Prospectus, d) completion of a written Doctoral Dissertation and
133 satisfactory defense of the dissertation in a final oral examination.

134 *Class and research requirements:* Of the 30 hours required for doctoral credits, students
135 must complete 16 hours of 8000 - 9000 level courses (i.e., Proseminar and roughly five 3-hour
136 classes). Additionally, students must complete 14 credit hours of research using 9000 (“Doctoral
137 Research”) and 3 required hours of 9300 (“Dissertation Writing”).

138 *Class selection:* Students must take one additional quantitative, methods, or laboratory
139 class (e.g., 8330 “Laboratory Apprenticeship”) within or outside the department. Up to one
140 intensive training institute taken in short-format outside the university may be substituted at the
141 Major Professor’s approval.

142
143 **Doctoral Assessments** (see detailed descriptions below; bolded events are open to the public)

144 I) Doctoral Comprehensive Examinations

145 a. Written

146 b. **Oral**

147 II) Dissertation Prospectus Oral Examination

148 III) Dissertation Approval

149 IV) **Final Defense of Dissertation**

150

151 **Ia. Written Comprehensive Examination (WCE)**

152 The doctoral written Comprehensive Examination requires selection of one of the three options
153 presented below. *This selection is made in careful consultation with the student’s Major*
154 *Professor and DAC, as each option requires different preparation and provides unique*
155 *opportunities and challenges.* **Option 1** is a closed book **structured essay examination (SEE)**
156 with reading lists and questions determined by the DAC. **Option 2** is a scholarly, review-type
157 **comprehensive manuscript (CM)** on a subject and in a format approved in advance by the
158 DAC. **Option 3** is a **grant proposal (GP)** on a topic approved in advance by the DAC.

159 For each written comprehensive exam option, the topic areas approved are considered by
160 the DAC to be: a) of substantial importance, and b) generally reflective of the student’s programs
161 of study.

162 Each written comprehensive exam reflects student’s independent work, and as such is not
163 be reviewed by the major professor before being forwarded to the committee for evaluation. The
164 evaluation criteria for each option requires that the work reflect graduate level performance as
165 evidenced by theoretical and conceptual depth, logical structure, professional editing, and
166 appropriate citations to the extant scientific literature. Finally, it is expected that all students
167 abide by the UGA Academic Honesty Policy. Students who violate the Policy in the course of
168 the written comprehensive exam will be reported to the appropriate UGA judicial body for
169 further action.

170 (https://honesty.uga.edu/_resources/documents/academic_honesty_policy_2017.pdf)

171

172 **Option 1: Structured Essay Examination (SEE)**

173 The structured essay examination (SEE) evaluates breadth and depth of content knowledge.

174 Each DAC member provides the student with an extensive reading list tailored to the
175 student’s individual course of study. Based on the reading list, each member generates a set of

176 questions. Each day the student is provided with the questions from one member of the
177 committee. The questions are not seen in advance and are designed to take approximately one-
178 half day (3-5 hours) for the student to answer. The exam is taken over consecutive days (either in
179 morning or afternoon sittings) in a room in the Psychology Department on a computer with no
180 internet access, no notes or other reference materials, and no cell phone or other electronic
181 devices.

182 Each member reads and grades each *individual* answer (Pass / Fail), and assigns an
183 overall *summary* score. The Major Professor collates the individual scores to determine the status
184 of each answer and the overall summary score. The DAC then considers the course of action
185 (based on the summary score):

- 186 - Pass
- 187 - Conditional Pass
- 188 - No Pass

189
190 The Major Professor presents the student with the overall summary score, the collated comments
191 and critiques, and the recommended course of action.

192 (1) Pass - The DAC (with no more than one dissenting vote) determines that the written
193 comprehensive exam is successfully completed and the student prepares for oral exams.

194 (2) Conditional Pass - One or more issues need to be addressed before re-taking the SEE.
195 The student is informed of the modifications and preparations required before the re-test, as well
196 as the required time-line. The degree of revision is determined by the DAC and is generally
197 commensurate with the degree of deficiency. The re-test is administered in the same manner as
198 the original test and may range from re-taking a specific question to re-sitting for up to half of
199 the exam.

200 (3) No Pass - Over half of the exam answers requires correction, or if the DAC
201 otherwise considers the summary evaluation to be characterized by inadequate expertise and/or
202 poor writing and editing skills. A student may request an opportunity to take a second SEE with
203 the expectation that it covers new material. If the DAC agrees, the second SEE must be
204 completed within a time period determined by the committee (although not longer than 6 months
205 from the presentation of the feedback on the first SEE). A DAC may decline to grant a request
206 for a second SEE, however, and would thereby dissolve itself by written announcement to the
207 student and to the Graduate Coordinator. If the DAC dissolves itself, the student must form a
208 new DAC before filing an appeal to the BBS program.

209 If the student has previously received a No Pass on any WCE option, then a second No
210 Pass results in dismissal from the program at the conclusion of the current semester.

211 212 **Option 2: Comprehensive Manuscript (CM)**

213 The comprehensive manuscript (CM) is a scholarly review of the history, and theoretical or
214 methodological significance of a subject presented in the manner of a journal review article or a
215 meta-analysis.

216 The CM manifests the student's ability to review and critically evaluate a body of
217 literature, and to formulate the resulting ideas, findings, and conclusions into an appropriately
218 written document consistent with the breadth, depth, and format expected in a journal review
219 article or meta-analysis.

220 Advance approval of the manuscript topic, objectives, and format must be documented
221 for each committee member *before* a student may begin work on the CM. The specific
222 mechanism by which a student's DAC seeks definition and provides approval will be determined
223 by the members of the committee. Unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the
224 DAC, the CM is submitted for evaluation to the Major Professor within six months of the date
225 the proposal is approved. Students are expected to write a manuscript that, with additional
226 collaboration with the Major Professor and/or other colleagues, may be submitted to a high
227 quality refereed journal.

228 The Major Professor distributes the CM to the committee. The evaluation procedure is
229 structured after the peer-review process for journal publications. Evaluation of the CM is carried
230 out independently by each member of the DAC as a scholarly peer review and each review is
231 written using constructive commentary and sufficient detail. Reviews are submitted to the DAC
232 chair, who distributes the package of committee evaluations to each member and schedules a
233 meeting to determine the summary evaluation and the course of action (possibilities outlined
234 below).

- 235 - Pass ("accept as is")
- 236 - Conditional Pass ("revise and resubmit")
- 237 - No Pass ("reject with no revision acceptable")

238

239 The Major Professor presents the student with the overall evaluation, the collated reviews, and
240 the recommended course of action.

241 (1) Pass - The DAC (with no more than one dissenting vote) determines that the written
242 comprehensive exam is successfully completed and the student prepares for oral exams.

243 (2) Conditional Pass - One or more issues must be addressed before the manuscript is
244 reconsidered. The student is informed of the required modifications to be completed within a
245 specified time period. Upon submission, the revision is accompanied by a cover letter including
246 point-by-point responses to reviewers' comments. The revisions of the manuscript are evaluated
247 in the same manner as the original document.

248 (3) No Pass - It is determined that the student has not demonstrated adequate expertise,
249 mastery of the literature and/or writing and editorial skills expected at this stage in graduate
250 study. If the result of the CM is a No Pass, the sole available option for a student who wishes to
251 continue in the program is to meet the written comprehensive exam requirement by taking the
252 structured essay exam (SEE). If the DAC agrees, the student may attempt the SEE one time (not
253 two, as allowed for students who start with the SEE) to be completed within a time period
254 determined by the committee (although not longer than 6 months from the presentation of the
255 feedback on the CM). A DAC may decline to grant a request for a SEE, however, and would
256 thereby dissolve itself by written announcement to the student and to the Graduate Coordinator
257 of the Department of Psychology. If the DAC dissolves itself, the student must form a new DAC
258 before filing an appeal to the BBS program.

259 If the student who has previously received No Pass on the CM receives a second No Pass
260 on the SEE, it results in dismissal from the program at the conclusion of the current semester.

261

262 **Option 3: Grant Proposal (GP)**

263 The Grant Proposal (GP) incorporates relevant literature, premise and significance of the

264 research, and the theoretical and methodological expertise associated with programmatic
265 development of a project.

266 The GP manifests the student's ability to critically evaluate a body of literature, formulate
267 testable hypotheses, design a study with feasible methods, and articulate the significance of
268 potential results in a research protocol that is consistent in depth and quality with proposals
269 submitted to a granting agency.

270 Students prepare a "specific aims" section (1 page) plus a grant proposal (10-12 pages)
271 that includes required elements of a federal grant application (e.g., NIH R01; such as hypotheses,
272 research strategy (including significance, innovation, approach), study design and methods
273 (including proposed data collection, analytic plan, power calculations), expected outcomes and
274 potential concerns and solutions). A project summary/abstract, research timeline, and
275 bibliography/references are required and not included in the page limit.

276 Advance approval of the grant topic, objectives, and format must be documented for each
277 committee member *before* a student may begin work on the GP. The specific mechanism by
278 which a student's DAC seeks definition and provides approval will be determined by the
279 members of the committee. Unless there are extenuating circumstances approved by the DAC,
280 the GP is submitted for evaluation to the Major Professor within six months of proposal approval
281 approved. Successful attainment of grant funding is *not* required, but students are expected to
282 write a competitive application that, with additional collaboration with the Major Professor
283 and/or other colleagues, may be submitted to a grant agency for review.

284 The Major Professor distributes the GP to the DAC. The evaluation is structured after the
285 grant review process. Evaluation of the GP is carried out independently by each member of the
286 DAC as a scholarly critique of grant significance, innovation, and approach. Each committee
287 member's review documents constructive critiques in sufficient detail. Reviews are submitted to
288 the chair who then distributes copies of the all evaluations to each member. The Major Professor
289 schedules a meeting of the DAC to determine the overall evaluation and the course of action.
290 The student receives the following feedback:

- 291 - Pass ("accept as is")
- 292 - Conditional Pass ("revise and resubmit")
- 293 - No Pass ("reject with no revision acceptable")

294
295 The Major Professor relays the DAC's overall evaluation to the student, along with the collated
296 reviews and the recommended course of action.

297 (1) Pass - The DAC determines (with no more than one dissenting vote) that the written
298 comprehensive exam is successfully completed and the student prepares for the oral exams.

299 (2) Conditional Pass - One or more issues must be addressed before the proposal is
300 considered for a Pass. The student is provided with the reviews and informed of the
301 modifications required for re-evaluation. The communication stipulates a reasonable time period
302 within which the revision of the GP is to be completed. The revision is accompanied by a cover
303 letter including point-by-point responses to reviewers' comments. The revisions of the proposal
304 are evaluated in the same manner as the original document.

305 (3) No Pass - It is determined that the student has not demonstrated adequate expertise,
306 writing skill, or both on the grant proposal. If the result of the GP is a No Pass, the sole available
307 option for a student who wishes to continue in the program is to meet the written comprehensive

308 exam requirement by taking the structured essay exam (SEE). If the DAC agrees, the student
309 may attempt the SEE one time (not two, as allowed for students who start with the SEE) to be
310 completed within a time period determined by the committee (although not longer than 6 months
311 from the presentation of the feedback on the first SEE). A DAC may decline to grant a request
312 for a SEE, however, and would thereby dissolve itself by written announcement to the student
313 and to the Psychology graduate coordinator. If the DAC dissolves itself, the student must form a
314 new DAC before filing an appeal to the BBS program.

315 If the student who has previously received No Pass on the GP receives a second No Pass
316 on the SEE, it results in dismissal from the program at the conclusion of the current semester.

317 **Ib. Oral Comprehensive Examination (OCE)**

318 After a student passes the WCE, the DAC schedules and administers an oral examination at the
319 earliest possible date (usually within one semester). The OCE is open to all members of the
320 faculty and announced by the Graduate School two weeks prior to the exam date. The exam is
321 attended by all members of the committee simultaneously for the entire period.

322 To prepare, the student confers with each committee member about expectations.
323 Generally, the exam is inclusive within the student's field of study and covers the contents of the
324 thesis, as well as topics included in a student's Program of Study (and normally lasts between
325 one and several hours). Each committee member generates questions collected by the DAC chair
326 about one week in advance of the exam. The chair provides the student with a copy of the exam
327 questions 30 minutes prior to the beginning of the meeting. The chair determines the order of
328 questions, making sure that each member's questions receive equivalent time and attention from
329 the student. When the submitted questions are finished, the floor is open for additional questions
330 as the committee sees fit. Upon completion, the student is dismissed. The DAC deliberates on the
331 quality of performance with each member eventually submitting a summary vote.

332 If the summary vote of the DAC is a Pass (with no more than one dissenting vote) then
333 the OCE is successfully completed. The DAC signs the necessary paperwork and the student
334 may initiate work towards the dissertation prospectus. If the result is a No Pass, the student may
335 request another opportunity to take the OCE.

336 If the student receives a No Pass on the second oral comprehensive exam, it results in
337 dismissal from the program at the conclusion of the current semester.

338 **II. Dissertation Prospectus (DP)**

339 The Dissertation Prospectus is submitted to the DAC in the traditional format of a dissertation
340 proposal (e.g., introduction, literature review, rationale, proposed research/analysis methodology,
341 etc.) developed under the direction of the student's Major Professor and in consultation with the
342 other members of the DAC. The student submits their written DP to the DAC at least three
343 weeks in advance of the oral DP (which necessarily occurs on a different day than the OCE). The
344 DP may be electronic or hard copy, as determined by the DAC. The Prospectus is a critical
345 component of the doctoral program, as committee approval is an agreement with the student that
346 the research study is satisfactory for a Dissertation project. The meeting also clarifies the
347 standards and expectations to be met in the completed written Dissertation.

348 A "Staple" Dissertation may be proposed with the support of the Major Professor.
349 Generally, a staple dissertation consists of three manuscripts submitted for publication on which
350
351

352 the candidate is first author (and with work completed while a graduate student in the BBS
353 program). The papers have a coherent theme and the student provides a detailed introduction and
354 conclusion. This option is available only at the discretion of the DAC (with no more than one
355 dissenting vote).

356 If the summary vote of the Dissertation Prospectus by the DAC is a Pass (with no more
357 than one dissenting vote) then the appropriate forms are signed and filed with the graduate
358 coordinator. For Graduate School policy on the Prospectus, see link. (
359 [http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-dissertation-planning/)
360 [offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-dissertation-planning/](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-dissertation-planning/))
361

362 **III. Dissertation Approval**

363 The Dissertation is written under the direction of the Major Professor, and with the input of the
364 DAC. The Major Professor certifies the final version before distribution to the DAC. The
365 Dissertation may be electronic or hard copy, as determined by the DAC. Committee members
366 have three weeks to read the document and agree (with no more than one dissenting vote) that
367 the Dissertation is ready for oral Defense. The Graduate Coordinator must notify the Graduate
368 School of the defense date at least two weeks prior.

369 For Graduate School Policy see link. ([http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-dissertation-approval-and-defense/)
370 [procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-dissertation-approval-and-defense/)
371 [dissertation-approval-and-defense/](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-dissertation-approval-and-defense/))
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373 **IV. Dissertation Defense**

374 As per Graduate School requirements: “The defense of the dissertation will be chaired by the
375 student’s Major Professor and attended by all members of the advisory committee
376 simultaneously for the entire defense period. The defense will consist of a public presentation
377 followed by a private defense during which only the student and advisory committee will be in
378 attendance. The public presentation is open to anyone who wishes to attend. The student and
379 committee chair must appear in person for both components of the defense, but other members
380 may participate via teleconference or video conference”. See link.

381 ([http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-dissertation-approval-and-defense/)
382 [offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-dissertation-approval-and-defense/](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-dissertation-approval-and-defense/))
383

384 At the conclusion of this examination, the DAC votes to Pass or Fail. Approval is
385 pending no more than one dissenting vote and the vote is documented via completion of the
386 appropriate Graduate School forms.

387 The Graduate School has specific and important deadlines for Dissertation submission
388 with serious consequences for not complying. Please see link for details. (
389 [http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-submitting-the-dissertation/)
390 [offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-submitting-the-dissertation/](http://grad.uga.edu/index.php/current-students/policies-procedures/academics/types-of-degrees-offered/doctor-of-philosophy-phd/doctor-of-philosophy-submitting-the-dissertation/))