

## **School of Kinesiology (Internal) Ph.D. Examination**

Candidates for the Doctoral degree are strongly encouraged to defend their thesis before an Examining Committee in the School of Kinesiology prior to submitting their thesis to the School of Graduate & Post Doctoral Studies for final University examination and defense.

### **1. Time Frame**

The Candidate should provide a completed copy of his/her thesis to the members of the Examining Committee 3-4 weeks prior to the date of the exam. The exam should occur 1 week before the School of Graduate & Post Doctoral Studies (SGPS) term submission deadline [http://grad.uwo.ca/current\\_students/doctoral\\_thesis\\_timeline.htm](http://grad.uwo.ca/current_students/doctoral_thesis_timeline.htm). This allows time for the Candidate to make any suggested changes to the thesis following the internal exam, and to prepare the final copies for submission to SGPS.

### **2. Examination Committee**

1. The Examining Committee normally shall consist of a minimum of three members of the Graduate Program in the School of Kinesiology. Often this committee is the Candidate's advisory committee, other experts can be asked to serve as thesis examiners who are from either the School of Kinesiology or any other program at the University. The advisory committee, supervisor, and Candidate should discuss the examining committee composition.
2. The Candidate's Thesis Supervisor shall serve as Chair of the Examination Committee and may at his/her discretion also serve as an Examiner.
3. **NOTE:** Only one member of the Internal Examination Committee may also serve as a member of the University final Examination Committee.
4. Four weeks prior to the Examination, the Thesis Supervisor shall submit the name of the student, the title of the thesis, the date of the exam and the names of the Examining Committee to the Kinesiology Graduate Program, which will then schedule the exam and reserve an examination room.
5. It is encouraged that at least one member of the Examining Committee be at arm's length, free of substantial conflict of interest, and not a close collaborator or co-author on the Candidate's thesis.

### **3. Thesis Lecture**

1. The Thesis Supervisor in consultation with the Candidate shall determine whether the Candidate shall make a verbal presentation of the thesis (i.e., a practice public lecture) prior to the oral Examination.
2. The practice public lecture shall be presented to the members of the Examining Committee only.

### **4. Criteria for Examination**

1. The Examining Committee shall determine if the thesis and the Candidate meet scholarly standards for the degree. In this regard, it shall
  - Appraise the thesis for content
  - Appraise the thesis for form
  - Evaluate the Candidate's skill and knowledge in responding to questions and defending the thesis
2. Each Examiner will independently and without consultation decide if
  - The oral defense is Acceptable or Not Acceptable
  - The thesis content is Acceptable, Acceptable following minor but mandatory revisions or Unacceptable (major revisions are required).
  - The form is Acceptable, Acceptable following minor revisions, or Unacceptable (major revisions are required).
3. The format of the oral defense shall follow the normal procedures and guidelines established for the final University defense by the School of Graduate & Post Doctoral Studies ([http://grad.uwo.ca/current\\_students/trg\\_4.htm](http://grad.uwo.ca/current_students/trg_4.htm))

### **5. Consequences of the Internal Exam**

1. *For the Thesis Supervisor.* The Internal Examining Committee serves in an Advisory capacity

only. That is, the School of Graduate & Post Doctoral Studies has as a policy that “the Supervisor(s) alone may decide at the program's discretion, when the candidate's thesis is ready for examination.” Thus, even if a majority of the Internal Examining Committee shall deem the oral defense or the thesis content, or the thesis form to be unacceptable, the Thesis Supervisor may elect to have the Candidate proceed to submit his/her thesis to the School of Graduate & Post Doctoral Studies for final University Examination.

2. *For the Candidate.* The School of Kinesiology Internal examination is strongly recommended, but not required, and if the Candidate wishes, he/she may proceed directly to School of Graduate & Post Doctoral Studies for the final University thesis examination. The School of Graduate & Post Doctoral Studies also has as a policy that “The student ...may submit the thesis without the Supervisor(s)'s or Thesis Supervisory Committee's approval.” Thus, even if a majority of the Internal Examining Committee including the Thesis Supervisor shall deem the oral defense or the thesis content, or the thesis form to be unacceptable, the Candidate may still proceed to the University final thesis examination and defense.

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