

Economics PhD Dissertation Guidelines

1. Dissertation Proposal

To advance to candidacy, students will form a dissertation committee, and will present a dissertation proposal to the committee's dissertation chair. All students are required to advance to candidacy by the end of the Fall Quarter of their fourth year in the program.

The judgement and willingness to serve as an advisor is at the dissertation chair's discretion, and different faculty members have different ways of assessing readiness.

Dissertation Proposal Presentation Requirements:

- a. The proposal is expected to include a completed draft of a research paper
- b. The student must defend their proposal in an assigned research seminar with their dissertation committee present
- c. The meeting must be open to all faculty members and graduate students, and at least two faculty members who are NOT part of the dissertation committee must be present. The graduate office may arrange for additional faculty to be present for transparency and uniformity of standards
- d. The paper must be available at least one week before the presentation for the graduate office to publicly post it

Following the presentation, the dissertation committee will recommend advancing to candidacy or schedule a further defense in the future.

2. Dissertation Defense

Students will give another presentation and answer remaining questions that the attending faculty may have.

Dissertation Defense Presentation Requirements:

- a. The meeting must include two faculty members (picked at random) who are not part of either the student's dissertation committee or research seminar. They will advise the dissertation committee on the suitability of granting the PhD. The department arranges for the participation of additional faculty for transparency and uniformity of standards
- b. The dissertation must be available at least one week before the defense for the graduate office to publicly post it
- c. The dissertation committee may unanimously agree to waive the requirements for a public defense and the participation of outside faculty members if there are special circumstances

Following the defense, the dissertation committee will either recommend awarding the degree, require minor revisions not requiring a further defense, or require further work and another defense. Public defense of the completed dissertation is required by all students.