

Proposed Graduate Academic Calendar Regulation Amendment
Section – PhD candidacy examinations
Academic Council - January 22, 2019

Rationale for proposed changes: To clarify that the university faculty member must have a graduate faculty appointment to serve as an external examiner on a graduate student's PhD candidacy exam. To update the language from the use of "UOIT" to "the university" as outlined in the Editorial Style Guide.

PhD candidacy examinations

Each student in a doctoral program is required to prepare a written thesis proposal and pass a candidacy exam. Full-time students are expected to do so within 18 months of their initial registration in the program. The examination is to determine whether the candidate has the appropriate knowledge and expertise to undertake a thesis in the selected field of study.

A candidacy committee conducts the examination. This committee consists of the following members:

- The student's supervisor(s).
- At least two additional members from the student's supervisory committee (the student's supervisory committee must be established prior to the oral examination).
- Graduate program director (or delegate) as chair. The chair cannot be a member of the student's supervisory committee.
- The external examiner for a candidacy exam has expertise that is relevant to the thesis subject matter and normally is a faculty member at ~~UOIT~~ [the university with a graduate faculty appointment](#), although examiners external to the university may be appointed.
- Examiners should not have been an examiner for another PhD student's candidacy exam with the same supervisor within the last year.
- The conflict of interest regulations for external and university examiners in thesis defences also apply to candidacy external examiners (see [conflicts of interest](#) policy).
- The external examiner is appointed by the Dean of Graduate Studies in consultation with the graduate program director. A curriculum vitae for the recommended examiner and a written rationale for the choice must be provided to the Dean of Graduate Studies.