

Thesis

Policy 5515.1

5515.1.11 A student desiring to participate in any graduation ceremony must ~~either have turned in his/her final thesis/dissertation copy or have scheduled the defense with the committee prior to the graduation date. The defense date may occur within the 30-day period following graduation.~~ defend her or his thesis (5515.1.7) by the last day of Final Exam week of the semester (last day of classes in the case of Summer semester) in order for the student's degree to be awarded in that semester and in order to participate in the graduation ceremony. The department should notify the Graduate School, by memorandum prior to the graduation ceremony, of the scheduled defense date.

Dissertation

Policy 5720.7

The dissertation is an original contribution to scholarly or scientific knowledge in a specialized area. Students are expected to demonstrate in the dissertation the highest level of mastery in the techniques of research and a thorough understanding and application of the subject matter.

Before undertaking the dissertation, the student must (1) pass the qualifying examination, (2) be admitted into candidacy status, and (3) gain approval of the proposed dissertation topic from the student's dissertation or advisory committee. Students must complete the dissertation within the time frame established for candidacy. All course work associated with the dissertation must earn a grade of "A", "B", or "P" in order to qualify the student for graduation; all grades for dissertation work will be given in each semester for which dissertation credit is awarded. The dissertation must be written in English.

The final defense of the dissertation will normally be open to the public. The dissertation committee may also elect to privately question the candidate following the public presentation. The program's graduate committee will establish the procedures for the defense of the dissertation. The dissertation must be approved by at least three (3) members of the dissertation committee. The dissertation defense must occur by the last day of ~~classes~~Final Exam week of the semester (last day of classes in the case of Summer semester) in order for the student's successful completion of the degree to be awarded in that semester. This requirement also governs the student's ability to participate in the graduation ceremony in that term: in order to participate in the graduation ceremony, the student's dissertation defense must be held by the final day of classesFinal Exam Week in that semester (last day of classes in the case of Summer semester).