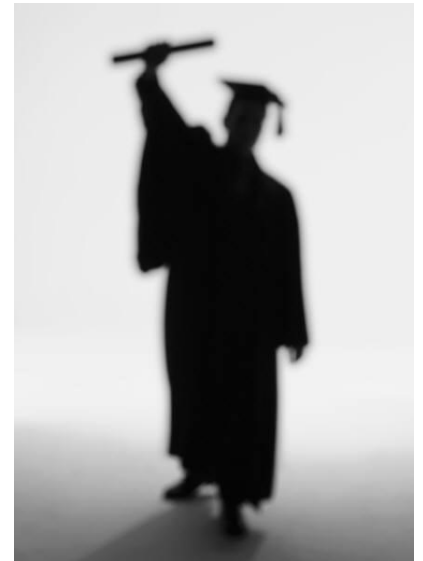


THE DISSERTATION AND FINAL DEFENSE

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EDCI 59100, C&I Doctoral Seminar I



Dissertation and Final Defense

- The dissertation and final defense are the culminating steps of a doctoral degree program and the final major milestones that we will consider in this seminar.
- The dissertation is a substantial written document that summarizes the original research that you have conducted.
- The final defense is a formal forum, open to students and faculty other than your committee, at which you present and defend your research work and dissertation.

Ph. D. Dissertation

[The] Ph.D. dissertation ... is a document authored by an individual, describing results of original research undertaken by that individual, and asserting a position which that individual is willing to defend. Joint or collaborative research endeavors are not prohibited; however, in such situations, unique aspects of the broad problem are to be explored by each individual, and the thesis written and presented to the final examining committee is to be a personal document describing the student's creative effort and contribution.

-- Graduate School Policies and Procedures Manual

Dissertation Format

- See the Graduate School's Thesis Format Manual
<http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/downloads/facstaff/graduate-thesis-manual.pdf>
- Attend workshops by and use the resources of the Thesis/Dissertation Office
<http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/thesis.cfm>
- Download the Thesis Format Guidelines for C&I
[http://www.edci.purdue.edu/misc/Thesis Format Guidelines for CI.pdf](http://www.edci.purdue.edu/misc/Thesis%20Format%20Guidelines%20for%20CI.pdf)

Final Defense

After the research has been completed and the thesis written and presented to the committee, a final oral examination must be held in which the candidate defends the Ph.D. degree is to be awarded.

The committee will consist of a minimum of four members of the graduate faculty.

Final doctoral examinations will be announced so that interested members of the Purdue faculty and student body may attend.

-- Graduate School Policies and Procedures Manual

Timeline for Final Defense

Two semesters must elapse between prelims and the final exam

Your major professor must review a full draft of the dissertation at least 6 weeks before the final exam

Schedule the exam 3 weeks in advance. Deliver the dissertation to your committee at least 2 weeks in advance.

The Final Exam can be conducted no later than the week before the last week of classes in a term.

What Should You Expect?

- The dissertation will take a long time. (Jim's rule: All graduate students underestimate the time it will take.) Make it a central focus of your efforts. Don't give up. Don't leave before finishing.
- The defense will be part presentation and part Q&A. It is an opportunity for you to demonstrate how well you did your research and dissertation. If you are well-prepared, and you should be, it is a collegial, seminar-like experience. You may get hard questions, but you should be prepared to answer them.

Questions?

