

DAVIS DIVISION REGULATION 520(C)
Doctor of Philosophy: Dissertation and Final Examination

Approved by Graduate Council December 12, 2007

Approved by Academic Senate February 26, 2008

http://academicsenate.ucdavis.edu/cej/manual/dd_regs.cfm#520-

(C) Dissertation.

- (1) A dissertation on a subject chosen by the candidate, bearing on the principal subject of study and of such character as to show ability to prosecute independent investigation, must receive the approval of the special committee in charge of the dissertation and of the Graduate Council before the degree is recommended. Special emphasis will be placed upon this requirement, and the degree will in no case be given merely for the faithful completion of a course of study, however extensive.
- (2) The dissertation must be in a form acceptable to the Graduate Council.
- (3) Not later than three weeks before the end of the quarter in which the degree is to be conferred, the candidate shall file with the Dean of Graduate Studies one copy of the dissertation (the original if typewritten) approved by the committee in charge. An abstract of the dissertation must be filed by the same date. (Am. 02/25/05)

(D) Dissertation Committee and Plan.

The candidate shall be subject to the provisions of either Plan A, Plan B or Plan C as outlined below, depending upon the department or group primarily concerned with his or her field of study. Each department or group is required to adopt one of these three plans. (Am. 02/25/05)

- (1) Plan A.** The Graduate Council shall appoint a committee of a minimum of 5 members, including its chair. This committee will be designated as the Dissertation Committee and Final Examination Committee and the chair of this committee will be the candidate's major professor. This Committee shall determine whether the candidate has met the requirements for the degree, in accordance with the following procedure: (Am. 06/01/06)
 - (a) A minimum of 3 of the members of the committee shall be designated at the time of appointment to guide the candidate in his or her research and to pass on the merits of the dissertation. (Am. 06/01/06) This portion of the committee will be designated as the Dissertation Committee. This Committee and the candidate shall arrange for such conferences as may be necessary for the complete elucidation of the subject treated in the dissertation.
 - (b) A final oral examination, as described below in section (E), shall be required.
 - (c) There is no exit seminar requirement for this plan.
- (2) Plan B.** The Graduate Council shall appoint a committee of a minimum of 3 members, including its chair. This committee will be designated as the Dissertation Committee and the chair of this committee will be the candidate's major professor.

This Committee shall determine whether the candidate has met the requirements for the degree, in accordance with the following procedure:

- (a) The committee members shall guide the candidate in his or her research and shall pass upon the merits of the dissertation. This committee and the candidate shall arrange for such conferences as may be necessary for the complete elucidation of the subject treated in the dissertation.
- (b) At the discretion of the Dissertation Committee, a final oral examination, as described below in section (E), may be held. If the Dissertation Committee decides to hold a final oral examination, it will assume the role of the Dissertation and Final Examination Committee.
- (c) At the discretion of the graduate program, an exit seminar may be required of all candidates. Satisfaction of this requirement shall be verified by the chair of the Dissertation Committee. (Am. 02/28/05; 06/01/06)

(3) Plan C. The Graduate Council shall appoint a committee of a minimum of 3 members, including its chair. This committee will be designated as the Dissertation and Final Examination Committee and the chair of this committee will be the candidate's major professor. This Committee shall determine whether the candidate has met the requirements for the degree, in accordance with the following procedure:

- (a) The committee members shall guide the candidate in his or her research and shall pass upon the merits of the dissertation. The committee and the candidate shall arrange for such conferences as may be necessary for the complete elucidation of the subject treated in the dissertation.
- (b) A final oral examination, as described below in section (E), shall be required.
- (c) There is no exit seminar requirement for this plan.

(E) Final Oral Examination.

A final oral examination, where required under the applicable plan, shall be conducted in accordance with the following procedure:

- (1) All members of the Dissertation and Final Examination Committee shall conduct a final oral examination of the candidate. This examination shall be held after oral presentation of the dissertation to the Dissertation Committee but before final action has been taken on it. The final oral examination shall consist primarily of questions arising out of the relationship of the dissertation to the general field of study in which the subject of the dissertation lies.
- (2) Admission to the final oral examination may be restricted, wholly or in part, at the discretion of the Graduate Program. If admission is restricted, it shall include all members of the Dissertation and Final Examination Committee and may include other members of the Academic Senate and/or guests of equivalent rank at other institutions.