

The University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center UTHealth Houston Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences

Results of the Defense of the PhD Dissertation

The purpose of the defense is to provide a consistent and complete evaluation of the dissertation and the student's understanding of the research, as well as the student's ability to report information to the scientific community in a well-organized and interesting form.

The defense consists of two parts: a public seminar on campus and an examination. In the public seminar, the student will deliver a 45 to 60 minute public presentation, including a detailed description of the background, rationale, materials and methods, results and conclusions appropriate to the research. Following the presentation, the student will respond to questions from the audience.

Immediately thereafter, and at a location announced at the end of the seminar, the Advisory Committee will examine the student on the dissertation. Any member of the GSBS Faculty who attends the public presentation may participate in the examination to the extent described below. Others wishing to attend must be approved by the Advisory Committee.

The student's Advisor will serve as moderator of the examination. The student will be expected to respond to questions from those attending on any aspect of the written dissertation or the material presented at the seminar.

After the defense, the student will meet privately with the Advisory Committee to discuss the results. Finally, the Advisory Committee (in executive session, if desired) will determine what recommendation to make to the Dean and the Academic Standards Committee.

The Committee may conclude that the student has passed, or it may require additional research, modifications to the dissertation, and/or another defense.

Following the defense, the results of this meeting will be communicated through the Office of Academic Affairs to the Dean and the Academic Standards Committee for their information and approval.

Within one week of the defense, any GSBS faculty member who has read the student's dissertation and has attended the defense may write directly to the Dean to provide an evaluation of the student's performance. In reaching a final decision on whether to award the PhD or require further work and/or another defense, the Dean will take into consideration the recommendation of the Advisory Committee and other comments received from GSBS Faculty. In particular cases, the Dean may solicit additional evaluations of the dissertation from experts in the field either within or outside the GSBS Faculty.

The decision of the Dean will be communicated to the student and the Advisory Committee within one month of the defense.

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This form is to be submitted to gsbs.reports@uth.tmc.edu within two weeks after the PhD defense.

We, the undersigned, as the Advisory Committee in charge of the Defense of the PhD Dissertation for

_____ (student's name),

report that we have examined the candidate on his/her dissertation research on _____ (date).

(Please check the boxes that apply.)

- ☐ **We recommend that the candidate be granted the Doctor of Philosophy degree.**
If the Committee has attached any conditions to the recommendation, e.g., requiring that the dissertation be rewritten, the signing of the dissertation by the Committee members indicates the conditions have been met.
- ☐ **The Advisory Committee is satisfied with the evaluation of the student's dissertation by Turnitin.**
- ☐ **The Advisory Committee agrees that the candidate understands and has acted appropriately on ethical issues related to the dissertation project.**
- ☐ **The Advisor attests that the student contributed substantially to the text of any previously published work incorporated into the dissertation.**
- ☐ **The Advisor attests that any figure taken from the student's publication(s) and used in the dissertation is the result of work done by the student, him/herself.**
- ☐ **The student has a first-author (or co-first author) research paper submitted for publication.**
- ☐ **We do not recommend that the candidate be granted the Doctor of Philosophy degree at this time.**
[Please attach a letter to indicate the reason(s) for this decision.]

(Please type each committee member's name and degree(s) under the signature line.)

_____ Chair, Advisory Committee	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

The signature of the Program Director below indicates that the Program Director acknowledges the outcome of the defense.

Program Director, Printed Name and Signature

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Selection of Areas of Research Concentration for PhD GSBS Diplomas

GSBS students may elect, with the approval of their Advisory Committee and the Program Director(s), to have one or two Areas of Research Concentration (ARC) displayed on their diploma. The inclusion of a Secondary ARC is possible only if the student previously submitted a Request for Secondary ARC which was approved and is on file with the GSBS. The signature(s) of the Program Director(s) is/are required in order to list Program ARCs on the diploma. Approval is denoted by their signatures.

I wish to include ☐ one or ☐ two ARCs on my diploma.

Current Primary ARC 1 Affiliation (your program):	Indicate Secondary ARC: (check one only)
☐ Cancer Biology	☐ Cancer Biology
☐ Genetics and Epigenetics	☐ Genetics and Epigenetics
☐ Immunology	☐ Immunology
☐ Medical Physics	☐ Medical Physics
☐ Microbiology and Infectious Diseases	☐ Microbiology and Infectious Diseases
☐ Molecular and Translational Biology	☐ Molecular and Translational Biology
☐ Neuroscience	☐ Neuroscience
☐ Quantitative Sciences	☐ Quantitative Sciences
☐ Therapeutics and Pharmacology	☐ Therapeutics and Pharmacology

The signature(s) of the Program Director(s) is/are required in order to list Program ARCs on the diploma. Approval is denoted by their signatures.

We, the undersigned, as the Advisory Committee in charge of the Defense for _____
attest that the student completed research in the indicated area(s) of concentration and these area(s) should be listed on
the diploma.

_____	_____
Chair, Advisory Committee	
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
Program Director, Printed name and signature	Program Director, Printed name and signature