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

Guidelines for the MS/PhD Defense

- The purpose of the defense is to facilitate a thorough evaluation of the thesis/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 make a 45 to 60 minute oral 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 thesis/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 thesis/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 thesis/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
 thesis/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
 MS/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 thesis/ 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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Request for Defense of the M.S. Thesis / Ph.D. Dissertation

This form is to be submitted when the student's MS thesis/PhD dissertation has been completed and the Advisory Committee has determined that the student is ready to stand for the defense. This form should be submitted to the Office of Academic Affairs, GSBS, BSRB 3.8344, **two weeks** prior to the scheduled examination. The signature of the student's advisor on this form certifies that the advisor has seen and agrees with the content, form, and grammar of the one-page abstract submitted to GSBS. **With this form, also include**:

- 1. An electronic version of a one-page abstract (in Microsoft Word) of the thesis/dissertation.
- 2. An electronic version (in Microsoft Word), of the dissertation/thesis for submission to the anti-plagiarism software, Turnitin. This version should include the complete thesis/dissertation without the references. The results of this analysis will be forwarded to the student and the members of the Advisory Committee prior to the defense.
- 3. A PDF of your dissertation/thesis draft for a formatting check. This version should include all front pages, acknowledgements, tables of contents, figures and tables, figure legends, references and vita.
- 4. Submit all of the above to gsbs.gradteam@uth.tmc.edu.

The Advisory Committee	for	the defence	has accepted the Masters and now requests this presentation to be set for:
Thesis/Doctoral Dissertat	ion for the purpose of	the delense	and now requests this presentation to be set for:
Date:	Time:		Location:
Thesis / Dissertation title:	,		
to make a public present research, modifications to be awarded the MS/PhD	ation of the thesis/dissortation degree. By the signal	sertation and n, and/or and ature below,	on to each member of the Advisory Committee, and is prepared to be examined on it. The Committee may require additional other defense, or may recommend to the Dean that the student each member of the Advisory Committee (and any additional on unless otherwise indicated.
(Please type each comm.	ittee member's name (under the sig	nature line.)
Chair, Advisory Committee (Signature)			Signature of member
Print name			Print name
Signature of member			Signature of member
Print name			Print name
Signature of member			Signature of member
Print name			Print name
The student has completed	all Program requirement	s for the degre	ee.
Approved:			
Program Director			Date
(for office use only)	•••••	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	
Associate Dean for Graduate Education (will sign after submission to Office of Academic Affairs)			Date
TERM OF ENTRY	(MS)	(PhD)	