

Oral Defense of the Ph.D. Research Grant Proposal (PSL1066H)

1. Appointment and Composition of the Oral Defense Committee

The Oral Defense Committee and its Chair are appointed by the Ph.D. Research Proposal Committee. The Chair of the Oral Defense Committee will normally be a member of the Research Proposal Committee.

The three readers of the written proposal will normally form the three voting members of the Oral Defense Committee. Each of the readers will receive a copy of the other reviewers comments prior to the Defense. These will be distributed from the Departmental office by the Graduate Administrative Assistant.

The supervisor and co-supervisor are non-voting members of the Oral Defense Committee. Both the supervisor and, if applicable the co-supervisor, must attend the examination.

This is a "**Pass/Fail**" examination.

The Chair will ensure the good order of the Defense. The Chair will also ensure that the defense process is fair and that a consistent standard is achieved.

2. Establishing the Oral Defense

Each student, in consultation with his or her supervisor, will be responsible for arranging the date and time of the Oral Defense. The Defense must take place within 30 days of notification of the success of the candidate's written proposal.

The Oral Defense is a closed examination.

A quorum consists of the three voting committee members. Should one voting member fail to attend the examination the Chair may serve as the third voting member.

3. Procedures for The Oral Defense

Initially, the committee will meet in the absence of the candidate. At this time the Chair will ask the supervisor, or if appropriate the co-supervisor, what has been in their judgment the contribution of the student to the written Proposal. The Chair may at this time make further inquiries at his or her discretion. The candidate will be asked to join the committee and the Chair will ask the candidate what contribution the candidate has made to the written Proposal. The student will then present a 15 to 20 minute summary of the written Proposal to include a response to the comments/criticisms of the Readers. The Chair will strictly enforce this time limit.

The committee members will then ask questions to test the student's knowledge of the Proposal and of the background information required to support the Proposal. It is expected that the student will answer at least 75% of the questions to the satisfaction of the examiners. The duration of the question period should not exceed 40 minutes. At the end of the question period the Chair and the three voting members of the committee will meet (in the absence of the student) to discuss the student's performance. At this time the committee will also evaluate the written reviews. The voting members of the committee will then fill out a Department of Physiology **Assessment Form for the Oral Defense of the Doctoral Grant Proposal**. The signed form will be forwarded to the Departmental Office. The supervisor and candidate will then be informed of the outcome of the examination in writing.

Failure in the oral defense of the Ph.D. Research Grant Proposal will result in the student having a single opportunity to repeat the entire examination (written and oral component) at the next round of the examination, and to satisfy the examiners in both components.