

recommendation by the program.

### **9.7. Doctoral Comprehensive Examinations**

Each unit will determine the number of times a comprehensive examination may be taken by a student. The department or school must file with the Graduate School a statement specifying (a) the number of times the unit will allow its students to take a comprehensive examination, and (b) the maximum and/or minimum period of time the unit will allow between the first and final attempt to pass the comprehensive examination.

The Comprehensive Examination Committee will consist of no fewer than three members of the UM-St. Louis graduate faculty appointed by the Graduate Dean upon recommendation of the unit.

An oral examination may not substitute for the standard written portion.

### **9.8. Doctoral Advisors**

Upon entering the program, each doctoral student shall have an assigned program advisor who is a member of the Graduate Faculty. As early as possible in a doctoral student's program, but no later than when the student achieves candidacy, the unit shall recommend, in consultation with the student, a doctoral dissertation advisor.

### **9.9. Application for Candidacy**

Doctoral students may apply for candidacy after passing all required comprehensive and language examinations, written or oral, and successfully completing all course work.

### **9.10. Doctoral Dissertation Committee**

The Doctoral Dissertation Committee shall consist of at least four members of the Graduate Faculty who can contribute their expertise to the dissertation study: the committee chair, and at least one other member from the unit. A recognized scholar from outside the university may serve as a member upon the recommendation of the unit and approval of the Graduate Dean. The Graduate Dean shall approve the committee membership and changes in the committee membership.

### **9.11 Doctoral Dissertation (Rev. 11/06)**

All doctoral degrees require a dissertation as a final component of the program. The dissertation must be written on a subject approved by the candidate's doctoral dissertation committee, must embody the results of original and significant research and must be the candidate's own work

#### **9.11.1. Dissertation Proposal (Rev. 11/04)**

Before a student may conduct substantial research for the dissertation, the dissertation committee must approve a proposal after a formal defense. The student submits the approved proposal for review and approval by the dean of the Graduate School

An approved dissertation proposal in no way implies a contract between the university and the student. Depending on the outcome of the research, the dissertation may require substantially more work than anticipated when the proposal was approved. The termination of a line of research and the adoption of a substantially new dissertation project requires the preparation, formal defense, and acceptance by the Graduate School of a new dissertation proposal.

#### **9.11.2. Preliminary Dissertation Approval**

One copy of the dissertation, certified as complete and provisionally acceptable to the committee, shall be submitted to the Graduate Dean at least six weeks prior to commencement. The Dean of the Graduate School may seek advice and make suggestions to the committee about content and style before approving the dissertation.

#### **9.11.3. Defense of Dissertation**

Normally the approved Doctoral Dissertation Committee serves as the Oral Defense of Dissertation Committee. The Graduate Dean may appoint one additional qualified voting member to the Defense of Dissertation Committee from the Graduate Faculty within the University of Missouri System.