

Graduate Advisory Committees: Students in degree programs requiring a thesis or dissertation must form a graduate advisory committee. Graduate advisory committees (i) provide advice and guidance to students to facilitate completion of their thesis or dissertation projects and (ii) ensure that students have designed and completed a research project suitable for a thesis or dissertation, exhibited mastery of the subject area and the thesis or dissertation project, and have produced a suitable thesis or dissertation document.

Master's Students: Graduate advisory committees for Master's students must have a minimum of 3 faculty members. One committee member is the advisor. At least one other committee member must be outside of the advisor's department. A student's advisor typically chairs the committee, although the final defense exam is chaired by a Dean's Representative that is a committee member, but not the advisor. The advisor and at least one other committee member must hold graduate faculty status.

Doctoral Students: Graduate advisory committees for doctoral students must have a minimum of 4 faculty members, although having 5 faculty members is recommended. One committee member is the advisor. At least one other committee member must be outside of the advisor's department. A student's advisor typically chairs the committee, although the oral candidacy exam is chaired by a Dean's Representative that is a committee member, but is not the advisor. The chair and at least two other committee members must hold VCU graduate faculty status.

Adapted in part from the VCU Bulletin. Students should see the VCU Bulletin for additional information.

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