

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.

The advisor typically chairs the graduate advisory committee during meetings including exams. Alternatively, an individual other than the advisor can be appointed as committee chair by the associate dean for graduate education (ADGE) by their discretion or upon request by any of the following: the student, any GAC member including the advisor, or the graduate program director. The appointment of a specific individual as chair can be challenged with cause by any of the above. The ADGE will consider the challenge and proceed with either the original or an alternate individual as chair. For exams, the chair will be from outside the original GAC, but will participate as a voting member of the GAC.

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 from a discipline other than that of the advisor. All committee members must hold VCU graduate or affiliate graduate faculty status. The advisor and at least one other committee member must hold VCU graduate faculty status.

Doctoral Students: Graduate advisory committees for doctoral students must have a minimum of 4 or 5 (per program guidelines) faculty members. One committee member is the advisor. At least 2 committee members must be from within the Advisor's discipline and at least 2 committee members must be from another discipline. All committee members must hold VCU graduate or affiliate graduate faculty status. 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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