AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Graduate School Final Examination Policy

After the dissertation has been completed (except for minor revisions) and has been approved by
the student’s advisory committee, it is submitted to the Graduate School. A University Reader (a
member of the Auburn University graduate faculty (Level 1 or 2) who serves to represent the
university’s graduate faculty and the Graduate School) will be appointed to review the
dissertation. However, the student’s advisor may request appointment of the university Reader at
any time rather than waiting until after the dissertation is drafted. When the Graduate School has
approved the dissertation, the student may apply for the final examination on a form sent by the
Graduate School. The application must be filed with the Graduate School at least one week in
advance of the final examination. The examination is administered by the student’s advisory
committee. The University Reader also attends and participates. The examination, which
generally is oral but may be both oral and written, includes the major and minor fields and a
defense of the dissertation. Successful completion requires unanimous support of all members of
the committee, including the University Reader. Any member of the Graduate Faculty may
attend. If a student fails the examination, a re-examination may be given on recommendation of
the advisory committee and approval by the dean of the Graduate School. Further examination
requires exceptional circumstances and approval of the Graduate Council. In addition to
successful completion of all examinations, the final electronic copy of the dissertation must be
submitted to the Graduate School before the degree is conferred (see Graduate School calendar
for the deadline).