

AUBURN UNIVERSITY

Policy on Final Examinations for Doctoral Degrees

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 received an approved evaluation from the University Reader, 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).