



Oral Examination of the Dissertation Proposal

The defense of the Dissertation Proposal consists of two parts:

1. A written document known as the *Written Proposal*
2. An *Oral Defense* of the *Written Proposal*

1. The Written Proposal

The *Written Proposal* must clearly lay out the research of the dissertation, providing each of the following:

- (a) The research questions to be addressed;
- (b) The methods expected to be used;
- (c) How the research fits within the existing literature; in particular, the expected contribution(s) the proposed research will make to the existing literature.

The *Written Proposal* should also indicate the expected overall structure of the dissertation.

For example, if the dissertation is to consist of three essays then a summary of what each essay is likely to entail should be included. Alternatively, if the dissertation is to be a series of closely connected chapters, then a summary of the structure of these chapters should be included.

The *Written Proposal* should also provide a research plan that lays out a timeframe for the work involved.

It is understood that this is the start of the research so it is perfectly acceptable for the *Written Proposal* to be speculative in nature. Nonetheless, it is important that the proposal be sufficiently persuasive for the committee to be confident that it will give rise to original and interesting research.

Specific Details:

- (a) As a guide, the expected length is 3,000 – 5,000 words.
- (b) A well-structured and grammatically correct proposal that is free of typographical errors.
- (c) Proper citation of relevant references and a properly constructed reference section.
- (d) As a guide, the student may wish to structure the proposal along the same lines as a SSHRC Doctoral Grant Proposal (please consult the SSHRC website: www.sshrc-crsh.gc.ca/)

2. The Oral Defense

The dissertation proposal oral examination committee consists of the supervisory committee. The supervisor will arrange for the oral examination to be chaired by a departmental member who is not part of the supervisory committee. The Candidate will present a 15 – 20 minute summary of the *Written Proposal*. After the presentation there will be two rounds of questions from the committee members.

Assessment of the Oral Examination of the Dissertation Proposal

The *Written Proposal* will be assessed on each of the following necessary criteria:

- (a) Whether the proposed research questions are of interest.
- (b) Whether the expected contributions are expected to be sufficiently novel for the purposes of a PhD Dissertation.
- (c) Whether the proposed research and research plan are feasible.

The *Oral Defense* will be assessed on whether the Candidate has demonstrated a thorough understanding of the proposed research.

The candidate's proposal will be graded as: PASSED, FAILED, or DEFERRED. The Committee may grade as PASSED subject to minor amendments to the Written Proposal. It is understood that amendments are to be submitted by the Candidate shortly after the Oral Defense date.

Scheduling

The student or supervisor is to contact the Graduate Secretary once a finalized date and time for the Oral Examination of the Dissertation Proposal has been set and agreed upon with the committee and chair so proper arrangements can be made to coordinate the details of the oral examination.

The Candidate must provide a final draft of the *Written Proposal* to the Committee members **three weeks prior** to the date of the *Oral Defense*. The Committee may ask for minor amendments to the *Written Proposal* to be submitted by the Candidate shortly after the *Oral Defense* date.



Oral Examination of the Dissertation Proposal

Please review and complete this form in its entirety and return to the Graduate Secretary at least three weeks before the date of the Oral Examination of the Dissertation Proposal. A copy will be provided to both student and supervisor. Should you require assistance please do not hesitate to contact the Graduate Secretary at gradecon@uvic.ca or #4409.

The general requirements for the oral examination of the dissertation proposal can be found on the Department's website at: [Department of Economics PhD Candidacy Examination Requirements](#).

Specific requirements for the Dissertation Proposal as agreed by the Supervisory Committee and Student:

STUDENT INFORMATION		
STUDENT NAME:	UVIC STUDENT #:	
STUDENT SIGNATURE:	EMAIL:	
TITLE of PROPOSAL:		
SUPERVISORY COMMITTEE		
SUPERVISOR:		SIGNATURE (or email confirmation)
(CO)SUPERVISOR OR COMMITTEE MEMBER:		
COMMITTEE MEMBER:		
CHAIR (Departmental member not part of supervisory committee):		
SCHEDULING INFORMATION		
DATE & TIME:	BLDG & ROOM # (if applicable):	
Draft of proposal due to committee members by:		
Department deadline for Candidacy (30 months after enrollment in PhD program):		
Oral Defense of the Dissertation Proposal:		
FOR OFFICE USE ONLY		
Received by:	DATE:	
Copy to Supervisor:	Copy to Student & file:	