

## THE STUDENT'S COMMITTEE

It is expected that students will be making steady progress toward formulation of the dissertation topic and completion of steps preparatory to the dissertation through course assignments. As the topic of the dissertation takes shape, the student's committee should be formed, preferably by the end of the fourth semester, and certainly during the semester in which the student participates in the dissertation seminar.

The student's Chair and Committee Members advise the student about the dissertation proposal and the written and oral segments of the qualifying examination. The committee approves the final dissertation proposal, oversees completion of the dissertation, approves the dissertation, and conducts the final oral examination on the dissertation.

### COMMITTEE COMPOSITION (<http://handbook.unc.edu/phd.html#dissertation>)

In the School of Social Work, the student's committee must have no fewer than five members. Three of these must be members of the School of Social Work Faculty, and one must come from outside the school.

Additional members of the committee may be drawn from faculty of the School of Social Work, from the Research Practicum site, or from other sources, but the majority of committee members must be from the School of Social Work. One School of Social Work Graduate Faculty member will serve as chair of the committee. Members of the student's committee who are not members of the university graduate faculty will receive a Fixed-term Appointment. Please contact the Doctoral Program Coordinator to complete the paperwork for this appointment.

According to the Graduate School Handbook, "a majority of the members of the doctoral (oral) committee must be full members of the Graduate Faculty. Other members may be limited members of the Graduate Faculty or special appointees."

Committee members should be selected on the basis of substantive and methodological expertise in the area of the student's dissertation. There must be at least one member with expertise in the substantive area, the methodology, and the statistical or data analytic strategies for the dissertation. -

## EXTERNAL COMMITTEE MEMBER

Students are encouraged to select an outside committee member in consultation with their Dissertation Committee Chair. The external committee member is usually a member of The Graduate Faculty of the University and has a primary appointment in a department or school in which the student has taken at least one supporting course. This person will serve on the student's committee, participating in and evaluating the written and oral exams, and helping to guide the student to prepare the dissertation.

## FORMATION OF THE STUDENT'S COMMITTEE

The student and the dissertation chair, will list members whom the student has determined would be willing to serve on his/her committee. This list will be forwarded to the Doctoral Chair, who may propose additional or alternative members as appropriate. The final decision about composition will be negotiated by the student, Advisor, and the Doctoral Chair. The Doctoral Chair approves the committee members and chairs with approval by the Graduate School.

Replacements or additions of committee members can be made at any time with the approval of the Doctoral Chair and the Graduate School.