Permission to Write and Defend the Dissertation

The thesis committee must formally grant permission to write the thesis. Students are expected to write their thesis full-time and upon request demonstrate reasonable progress to their mentor and committee. In addition, students must submit the thesis to the graduate group within six months of receiving permission to write.

If the student will not meet the six-month deadline for submitting the thesis, s/he must meet with the committee again before the end of the six months. The committee will review the student’s progress and set a new deadline for the submission of the thesis. Under normal circumstances, no more than one additional month will be granted. If the student does not submit the thesis or meet with the committee during the six-month period, the graduate group will put the student on academic probation. The graduate group’s academic review committee will determine whether the student should be given permission to defend the thesis, and under what circumstances, or whether the student should be withdrawn from the graduate group or offered a terminal masters degree.

After the student submits the thesis, the committee may take up to one month to review it. Upon review by the committee, the members will be polled by the chair to determine if an oral defense should be scheduled. If the committee agrees to conduct an oral defense of the thesis, the student will have one month in which to finalize arrangements. If the committee determines that the student must revise the thesis prior to defending it, the student will have one month to make the revisions and submit clean and complete copies to the committee.

Instructions for Students: Please review policy with Thesis Committee Chair and Thesis Advisor, obtain their signatures, and return this form to Ruth Keris within one week of receiving permission to write.