

Schedule 3: Doctoral degree examination criteria and outcomes

Table 1: Doctoral thesis examination outcomes

Outcome	Detailed descriptions
Pass (P)	No changes required, or only minor edits required, such as typographical errors, formatting issues or other corrections that have no bearing on the quality of the overall argument. The chair of examiners verifies the required changes have been addressed.
Pass with minor revision (PR)	Minor revisions to content are required. Examiners must provide an enumerated list and explanation of each required revision. Revisions will be reviewed and verified by the chair of examiners who may consult the Examiner to verify the changes. The revised thesis is the final version.
Major revision (MR)	Serious shortcomings in the content of the thesis are present but can be resolved with major revision. Examiners must provide an enumerated list and explanation of the required changes. The revised thesis is returned to the Examiner to consider, and the Examiner assesses the thesis accordingly. A thesis submitted for reassessment may only be awarded a result of P, PR, or Fail.
Fail	The thesis has serious irredeemable flaws and is not of a standard to be awarded the degree.

(1) To be awarded a pass, a doctoral degree thesis must:

- (a) demonstrate the candidate's command and critical assessment of a substantial and complex body of knowledge at the forefront of their field
- (b) demonstrate that the methods and techniques used are appropriate; and demonstrate an understanding of their principles, strengths and limitations
- (c) demonstrate that the candidate has generated original knowledge that makes a significant contribution to their field, in which the research objectives are tested or explored according to disciplinary norms
- (d) demonstrate the candidate's independence of thought and approach
- (e) demonstrate the candidate's ability to effectively communicate original research findings to appropriate professional, academic and industry audiences, and in national and international contexts
- (f) demonstrate the candidate's understanding of, and commitment to, research ethics and integrity
- (g) form a careful, rigorous and cohesive piece of original research.

(2) Creative outputs included with the thesis must:

- (a) demonstrate a professional level of familiarity with and understanding of contemporary work in the field
- (b) demonstrate a sufficiently comprehensive investigation of the creative form and content
- (c) have applied methods and techniques in the execution of the work that are appropriate to the subject matter and are original and/or aesthetically effective
- (d) be presented in a sufficiently professional manner
- (e) demonstrate a sufficiently high standard of artistic and creative work
- (f) identify and test or explore the research objectives
- (g) demonstrate sufficiently thorough documentation of the work (including catalogue/program material where appropriate) to ensure the work provides a reference for subsequent researchers

- (h) together with the dissertation, constitute a substantive original contribution to knowledge in the subject area, and
- (i) have an appropriate and substantiated interface between the creative output and the dissertation.

Table 2: Reconciliation of examiners' recommendations for a doctoral degree examination by thesis

		Examiner 2 recommendation			
		Pass (P)	Pass with revision (PR)	Major revision (MR)	Fail (F)
Examiner 1 recommendation	Pass (P)	Pass	Pass with Revision	Major Revision	Moderated examiner discussion
	Pass with revision (PR)	Pass with Revision	Pass with Revision	Major Revision	Moderated examiner discussion
	Major revision (MR)	Major Revision	Major Revision	Major Revision	Moderated examiner discussion
	Fail (F)	Moderated examiner discussion	Moderated examiner discussion	Moderated examiner discussion	Fail

Table 3: Revisions to the doctoral degree thesis

Requirements	Overall Result			
	Pass (P)	Pass with minor Revision (PR)	Major revision (MR) (Viva)	Major Revision (MR) (Thesis)
Changes to the thesis	Only changes specified or implied by the examiners, or through the incorporation of an updated version of a publication.	Only changes specified or implied by the examiners, or through the incorporation of an updated version of a publication.	Revisions as needed to meet the requirements for the award of the degree	Revisions as needed to meet the requirements for the award of the degree.
Time allowed to complete revisions	6 weeks	2 months	12 months	12 months
Final extension to deadline	Nil	Nil	6 months	6 months
Changes assessed by	Chair of Examiners, who may consult with the examiner or other content expert.	Chair of Examiners, who may consult with the examiner or other content expert.	Nominated examiner	Chair of Examiners first then sent for reassessment by any examiner who recommended MR
If changes are satisfactory	No further changes may be made	No further changes may be made	Examiner may request additional, final minor revisions (assessed by chair of examiners)	Examiner may request additional, final minor revisions (assessed by chair of examiners)
If changes are not satisfactory	Chair of examiners, in consultation with the PVC for graduate research, can enter a Fail result.	Chair of examiners, in consultation with the PVC for graduate research, can enter a Fail result.	Chair of examiners, in consultation with the PVC for graduate research, can enter a Fail result.	As per the result of the reassessment.