

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS

PROCEDURES FOR THE DEPARTMENTAL ORAL EXAMINATION

(Revised May 2011)

1. The departmental oral examination will normally be held at least one week before the thesis is submitted to the School of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies. The date for the departmental oral examination will be set by the candidate and the examining committee.
2. The candidate must provide a draft copy of the proposed thesis at least one week before the departmental oral examination.
3. The examining committee for the departmental oral examination shall consist of the candidate's chief advisor and two other full-time faculty members of the department chosen by the candidate's advisory committee. Members of the advisory committee may serve on the examining committee, and members of the examining committee (except the chief advisor) are not precluded from being members of the examining board.
4. The departmental oral examination will be preceded by a public lecture in which the candidate gives a talk on the content of the proposed thesis.
5. After the lecture and public question period, the audience is asked to leave and the examining committee meets privately with the candidate to ask additional questions.
6. Questions asked of the candidate shall be primarily concerned with the content of the thesis, although questions of a more general nature relating to the field of specialization may be asked.
7. After the examination, the examining committee (in closed session) shall decide by majority vote whether the candidate has passed or failed the departmental oral examination. The candidate shall be informed of the decision as soon as possible.
8. In the event that the candidate passes the departmental oral examination, but members of the committee have constructive criticisms to offer regarding matters in the thesis, they should arrange to communicate these comments to the candidate (or his chief advisor) after the examination.
9. In the event that the candidate fails the departmental oral examination, the candidate should consult his/her advisory committee regarding what future action the candidate should take.