***Doctoral Dissertation Defense***  
After the Doctoral Dissertation Committee has determined that the final draft of the dissertation is suitable for presentation; the Committee will request the scheduling and announcement of the Dissertation Defense (also called Final Oral Examination or Oral Defense.) Check with the College and Program for college and program specific procedures for this process. A copy of the announcement should be sent to the Office of Graduate Studies, preferably two weeks in advance of the defense date. The announcement must also be posted in a public forum for a minimum of twenty-four hours to comply with statute requirements for a public meeting. The student and (Co-) Major Professors must be physically present at the defense. The student must successfully defend the dissertation

to be able to proceed and complete the final submission process.

**Doctoral Dissertation Defense Chair**

The Doctoral Dissertation Defense (Final Oral Examination) shall be presided by

* an external committee member from outside the Department, School, or equivalent, hosting the doctoral program, but may be within the academic discipline.

OR,

* a non-committee member (a.k.a. Outside Chair), (Refer to the individual Program's Degree Requirements in the Graduate Catalog for information).  If the Chair is from another institution, this individual must be approved for Affiliate Graduate Faculty status.

The Doctoral Dissertation Defense Chair’s role includes overseeing the proceedings as well as serving as the student’s advocate, by ensuring fairness of the process.  Faculty holding joint, courtesy, or adjunct appointments in the degree-granting academic unit (i.e. Department or equivalent) cannot serve as the Defense Chair.