

Policies and Procedures for the Ph.D. Degree in Economics

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1. Introduction

The following information is a guide to policies and procedures for the Ph.D. degree in Economics at Kansas State University. The information is intended for use by graduate students, faculty, and staff in the Department of Economics. The official policies of the Graduate School for graduate study are given in the *Graduate Handbook*, which is available at <https://www.k-state.edu/grad/graduate-handbook/>. Students are responsible for being familiar with departmental and Graduate School policies. If an inconsistency between the *Graduate Handbook* and this document arises, the *Graduate Handbook* takes precedence.

The Ph.D. degree is awarded to candidates who have demonstrated unique ability as scholars and researchers as well as proficiency in communication. The degree also certifies that the candidate has displayed familiarity with and understanding of the subject matter in the discipline and possesses the ability to make original contributions to knowledge.

The major tasks that must be completed in order to be awarded the Ph.D. degree are:

1. Be admitted to the program.
2. Complete required courses.
3. Form a supervisory committee.
4. File a Program of Study.
5. Pass comprehensive examinations.
6. Prepare and defend an acceptable dissertation proposal.
7. Prepare and defend an acceptable dissertation.

Details concerning each of these tasks are given in Sections 2-8 of this document. Section 9 describes the procedures to get an M.A. degree concurrently with the Ph.D. degree. Section 10 explains policy regarding assistantships, enrollment requirements, and exceptions.

2. Admission Requirements

In addition to general Graduate School requirements, the Department of Economics has the following requirements for admission to the Ph.D. program:

1. 3 credit hours of intermediate macroeconomic theory
2. 3 credit hours of intermediate microeconomic theory
3. 3 credit hours of statistics
4. 3 credit hours of calculus

The grades earned in these courses should be B or higher (or the equivalent for institutions outside the U.S.) unless the student has received a grade of B or higher in a more advanced course in the particular subject matter. Each of the courses should have been taken in their home departments. For example, it is expected that applicants will have taken a calculus course taught in a math department, and it is the responsibility of the applicant to demonstrate that they took a calculus course covering the same topics, with the same level of rigor, if that is not the case. A minimum GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 credit hours taken is also required. Although students with academic performance below these standards may be admitted because of other considerations, such as high Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores, admission will be probationary.

Applicants normally are expected to provide GRE scores. In the absence of a GRE score, substantial evidence of academic ability should be provided. Even so, an application without a

GRE can be very difficult to evaluate. Transcripts from outside the United States can be especially difficult to assess. Students also are expected to submit transcripts from each college or university attended, a statement of objectives, and three letters of recommendation.

Applicants whose native language is not English must provide TOEFL, IELTS, or PTE scores as described at <https://www.k-state.edu/grad/admissions/application-process/international/> if they have not received a degree in the last two years from an accredited United States college or university. All applicants are expected to meet the minimum requirements listed on that page.

3. The Supervisory Committee

The supervisory committee is responsible for ensuring that the student's doctoral program is of high quality. In consultation with the student, the supervisory committee advises the student on many aspects of the student's Ph.D. program. These aspects include, but are not restricted to, courses to be taken, the Program of Study, the preparation of a dissertation, and meeting university and departmental regulations. Many aspects of the student's Ph.D. program require the formal approval of the supervisory committee.

The major professor is the chair of the supervisory committee and is the major advisor of the student. The major professor generally provides the main guidance to the student during the preparation of the dissertation. The major professor generally is chosen on the basis of area of specialization. After becoming familiar with the research areas of the faculty, the student seeks a member of the graduate faculty who is willing to serve as major professor. If the student is continuing for Ph.D. study after completing a master's degree, the major professor is not necessarily the same faculty member who was the major professor for the master's degree.

In consultation with the major professor, the student selects the remaining members of the supervisory committee. In addition to the major professor, the supervisory committee must contain at least three other members of the graduate faculty. One member of the supervisory committee must be a graduate faculty member from outside the department. The student is responsible for finding faculty members willing to serve on the supervisory committee.

The major professor and supervisory committee should be selected by the end of the student's first year of study for the Ph.D. degree. After being approved by the Department Head or the Director of Graduate Studies, the committee is formally appointed by the Dean of the Graduate School. The proposed supervisory committee and the proposed Program of Study (see section 4) are submitted simultaneously to the Dean of the Graduate School for approval on the Graduate School form *Program of Study: Doctoral*. Changes in the supervisory committee require the approval of the Department Head or the Director of Graduate Studies, as well as all members of the supervisory committee, including those individuals to be added or replaced. The Department Head may sign for faculty no longer on campus. Requests for changes in the supervisory committee are submitted on the Graduate School form *Program/Committee Change Form*.

For more details and restrictions see the *Graduate Handbook*.

4. The Program of Study

Every doctoral student must file a Program of Study with the Graduate School. The Program of Study is a formal list of the courses the student intends to take to fulfill the requirements of the degree. The student should prepare the Program of Study in consultation with the supervisory

committee. The Program of Study should consist solely of courses directly related to the doctorate. The Program of Study should include all the courses required for the Ph.D. in Economics (see section 5) and the courses to be covered in the preliminary examinations (see section 7.2). Transfer credit may be listed on the Program of Study subject to the approval of the supervisory committee and the Dean of the Graduate School. If the student has completed an MA degree in Economics at K-State, the 30 hours of transfer credit from K-State should be listed, along with a notation that the courses included are required for the Ph.D.

The Program of Study must be approved by all members of the supervisory committee and either the Department Head or the Director of Graduate Studies. A Program of Study will not be approved by the Graduate School if it is missing any of the required signatures.

Full-time students should file a Program of Study before the end of their second semester of graduate study. Part-time students should file their Program of Study upon the completion of 9 credit hours. The proposed Program of Study and the proposed supervisory committee (see section 3) are submitted simultaneously to the Dean of the Graduate School for approval on the Graduate School form *Program of Study: Doctoral*. Changes in the Program of Study require the approval of all members of the supervisory committee and either the Department Head or the Director of Graduate Studies. Requests for changes in the Program of Study are submitted on the Graduate School form *Program/Committee Change Form*. For more details and restrictions see the *Graduate Handbook*.

5. Required Coursework

The Ph.D. requires at least 90 credit hours. Of the 90 hours, there must be at least 30 hours of ECON 999: Ph.D. Research in Economics. ECON 815 cannot be counted toward a graduate degree in economics.

5.1 Required Courses

All Ph.D. students are required to take the following ten courses:

- ECON 905: Macroeconomic Theory II
- ECON 930: Econometrics II
- ECON 940: Advanced Microeconomic Theory I
- ECON 945: Advanced Microeconomic Theory II
- Four field courses that complete two field sequences
- One additional field course
- One of the following: AGEC 901, AGEC 905, AGEC 923, AGEC 936

In addition, a Ph.D. student that has not taken any of the following courses prior to entering the Ph.D. program will be required to take them at the first offering upon starting the Ph.D. program:

- ECON 720: Microeconomic Theory
- ECON 730: Applied Econometrics
- ECON 735: Mathematical Economics
- ECON 805: Macroeconomic Theory I
- ECON 830: Econometrics I

5.2 Waivers and Substitutions

Waivers may be granted in the case of ECON 720 and ECON 730 for students entering the Ph.D. program with a master's degree or prior Ph.D. coursework at another university. A minimum requirement for a waiver is that the student should have taken a course for graduate credit covering similar content, and with a similar level of rigor, as the K-State offering of the course. The Director of Graduate Studies will make the final decision on waivers for ECON 720 and ECON 730.

Due to their foundational nature, waivers cannot be granted for ECON 735, ECON 805, or ECON 830. With the approval of the supervisory committee, in cases where ECON 730 is not waived, a sixth field course can be substituted for ECON 730 if it has an empirical component.

5.3 Field Courses

The Ph.D. degree requires completion of five field courses. Four of the field courses must complete two field course sequences. As an example, the field courses requirement could be fulfilled by completing a two-course sequence in industrial organization, a two-course sequence in international trade, and one course in labor economics. The courses chosen to meet this requirement need to be approved by the major professor and the supervisory committee. Only courses numbered 800 and above can be used to meet this requirement. If a sixth field course is substituted for ECON 730, it does not need to be part of a field course sequence, and it does not change the requirement to complete two field course sequences.

With proper justification, one of the field courses can be taken outside the department. The minimum requirements to do so include a statement from the major professor that the course

is relevant to the dissertation research, the course number is 800 or above, and the rigor of the course is similar to a Ph.D. field course taught in the economics department. The Director of Graduate Studies will make the final decision on the request. In rare cases, and with strong justification, a course taken outside the department can be part of a field course sequence.

5.4 Other Courses

Coursework appearing on the program of study may come from other departments if the major professor and supervisory committee determine they are relevant to the student's dissertation research. Independent study courses require the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and Department Head upon the recommendation of the faculty member that will be offering the independent study. While it is possible that other situations might arise, credit for independent study is normally only approved when regularly scheduled field courses are cancelled due to insufficient enrollment. Independent study should not be used as a substitute for classes that were offered but not taken by the student. In that case, the student will need to wait for the next offering of the course.

5.5 Transfer Hours

A student entering the Ph.D. program with a master's degree (from this or any other institution) may request transfer of up to 30 hours of that degree toward the Ph.D. The number of hours accepted depends upon the relevance of the course work toward the Ph.D. and is decided on a case-by-case basis. Transfer credit needs to be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies and the Graduate School. For more details and restrictions see the *Graduate Handbook*.

6. Grade Requirements

6.1 Graded Work

Graduate work is graded A, B, C, D, F, credit/no-credit, pass/fail, incomplete, or withdrawn. For graduate credit, the grade in a course must be C or higher. To remain in good standing, a student must maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher.

To be awarded a graduate degree, the student (a) must not be on probation, (b) must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher on graduate coursework and on coursework on the program of study, (c) must meet all the requirements of the Graduate School, the student's academic program area, and the student's supervisory committee, and (d) must be enrolled during the semester in which the degree requirements are completed. In addition, the Ph.D. degree requires a grade of B or better in both ECON 830 and ECON 930.

6.2 Non-Graded Work (pass/fail, credit/no-credit)

At the discretion of the graduate faculty of the department, seminars in which letter grading conflicts with objectives may be offered on a credit/no-credit or pass/fail basis. Seminars that are to be so offered must be listed with the Dean of the Graduate School.

All courses on the Program of Study, except dissertation research and seminars that have been approved for credit/no-credit or pass/fail, must be taken for letter grades. Research for doctoral dissertations is graded credit/no-credit exclusively. Incompletes for research credit

hours awarded while research is in progress are not subject to the incomplete policy for course work.

No more than 6 hours of credit/no-credit or pass/fail coursework may appear on the Program of Study for the Ph.D. Apart from the Program of Study, courses may be taken credit/no-credit or pass/fail with the approval of the major professor and the professor offering the course. These courses do not apply toward a degree.

6.3 Incomplete Policy

The grade of Incomplete (I) is given in regular courses (other than independent studies, research, and problems) upon request of the student for personal emergencies that are verifiable. The faculty member has the responsibility to provide written notification to the student of the work required to remove the incomplete. The student has the responsibility to take the initiative in completing the work and is expected to resolve the I during the first semester in residence at the university after receiving the grade, except for theses, dissertations, and directed research courses. If the student does not resolve the I during the first semester in residence after receiving it, a grade may be given by the faculty member without further consultation with the student.

If after the end of the first semester the I remains on the record, it will be designated as F for record keeping and will be computed in the student's GPA, weighted at 0 points per credit. A grade of NR will be treated in a like manner using the designation NX.

7. Comprehensive Examinations

Students must pass three comprehensive examinations. The first two are written exams on microeconomic theory and macroeconomic theory. Together, these two examinations constitute the *qualifying examinations*. The third exam has both written and oral components. The written component is a proposal for the dissertation research and the oral component is a public defense of the proposal. This examination is called the *preliminary examination*. Both qualifying examinations must be passed before the preliminary examination is attempted. Upon passing the qualifying and preliminary examinations the student is admitted to candidacy for the Ph.D. The student must be admitted to candidacy at least seven months before the final oral examination may be given. This rule is set by the Graduate School and cannot be waived by the department.

7.1 Qualifying Examinations

When the student has completed ECON 940 and ECON 945 for graduate credit, with a grade of B or higher in at least one of the courses, the student is eligible to take the microeconomic theory qualifying examination. When the student has completed ECON 805 and ECON 905 for graduate credit, with a grade of B or higher in at least one of the courses, the student is eligible to take the macroeconomic theory qualifying examination. If a student has received a grade of C or lower in both courses that form the basis for an examination, they will not be allowed to take that examination, and they will be dismissed from the PhD program, unless the Graduate Committee determines that extreme circumstances outside the control of the student were the cause of poor performance in both courses.

For each examination the student is responsible for material covered in the most recent presentation of the relevant courses. Problems need not be based on specific course material. Problems intended to test the student's ability to apply the concepts developed in the relevant

courses are legitimate. Problems intended to test the student's broad understanding of the subject material are also legitimate.

The two qualifying examinations are given twice a year, just prior to the beginning of the fall semester and just prior to the beginning of the spring semester. The student shall register to take a qualifying examination by the announced deadline. Students that do not register by the announced deadline will not be allowed to take that offering of the qualifying examination. Students who have registered to take a qualifying examination are allowed to change their mind with respect to taking the examination prior to the start of the examination. Once a student is issued the examination questions, it will be recorded as a failure if they do not turn in their responses to the examination questions by the end of the examination period.

Students are required to take the qualifying examinations at the earliest possible date after the necessary courses have been completed. Students entering the Ph.D. program on a regular admission basis are required to take the qualifying examinations in January of the second year, i.e., after three semesters of course work if they begin the program in August, and after two semesters of course work if they begin the program in January. A failure will be recorded for students not taking that offering of the examination, unless the Graduate Committee determines that extreme circumstances outside the control of the student prevented the student from taking the examination.

If the student fails a qualifying examination, it must be retaken the next time it is offered, or another failure is recorded. Failure to pass either qualifying examination on the second attempt shall result in dismissal from the Ph.D. program unless the student successfully appeals to the Graduate Committee for a third and final attempt. A student may petition for a third

attempt on one, but not both, of the microeconomics or macroeconomics qualifying examinations. In other words, a student is limited to a total of five attempts to pass both qualifying examinations and may not attempt any one qualifying examination more than three times. Under normal circumstances, such a petition will be considered only if the student has received a Master's Pass on at least one of the two previous attempts on that examination. The Graduate Committee will make decisions on these petitions on a case-by-case basis, but the minimum criteria are: (i) evidence that extenuating circumstances prevented the student from passing the examination, (ii) evidence that the extenuating circumstances are no longer present, and (iii) evidence that the student has a plan that will substantially increase the probability of passing the exam. Students that received a grade of C in one of the courses that are the basis for the examination also need to provide evidence of extenuating circumstances substantially affecting their performance in that course.

Student appeals will include a petition letter, a supporting letter from the student's major advisor, a written plan describing steps for improving the student's exam performance, and evidence related to extenuating circumstances described above. A plan to improve exam performance should include at least one of the following: (i) sitting in on one or more of the relevant courses covering the exam material, or (ii) submission of a satisfactory set of solutions to the most recent qualifying examination.

Students that fail a qualifying examination can ask the administrative assistant for a copy of their written answers on that examination. Students can also make a request to the administrative assistant for copies of previous qualifying examinations, and if the questions are available, they will be provided. Because there are changes in the material covered in the core

theory courses, and changes in the faculty members serving on the qualifying examination committees over time, future qualifying examinations may differ substantially from past qualifying examinations.

The Department Head will appoint two of the three examiners for the microeconomics qualifying examination, appoint two examiners for the macroeconomics qualifying examination, and designate a committee member as chairperson for each of the examining committees. The Director of Graduate Studies in agricultural economics will appoint one member to the microeconomic theory examining committee. Each qualifying examination committee shall be responsible for preparing, administering, and grading the examination. The grade determined by majority vote shall be either Ph.D. pass, Ph.D. fail/Master's pass, or Ph.D. fail/Master's fail. The Director of Graduate Studies shall handle the administration of the qualifying examinations, including scheduling the examinations.

7.2 Preliminary Examination

The preliminary examination has two components. The first is a written version of the dissertation proposal. The student's dissertation committee will determine, by majority vote, whether the student has passed or failed the written part of the preliminary examination. After the student has passed the written portion of the preliminary examination, there will be an oral examination in which the student makes a public presentation and answers questions from members of the audience, followed by answering questions in a private meeting with the committee members. The committee will determine, by majority vote, whether the student has passed or failed the oral part of the preliminary examination. The student has passed the

preliminary examination when they have passed both parts. A failure on either the written part or oral part of the preliminary examination will be counted as a failure.

Students that do not pass the preliminary examination on two tries will be dismissed from the Ph.D. program. The first attempt on the preliminary examination must be completed by the end of the seventh semester of enrollment in the Ph.D. program. If the student has not made a first attempt by that time, it will be counted as a failure. The student will be dismissed from the Ph.D. program if they have not passed the preliminary examination by the end of the eighth semester in the Ph.D. program.

The student's dissertation committee may ask questions related to the written proposal, the academic literature on the research topic and other relevant research topics, and general knowledge of economic theory and research methodology deemed to be relevant to the proposed research. At the written request of the student, the major professor will provide details of the criteria used to evaluate the dissertation proposal. The major professor will normally respond within two weeks, though in unusual circumstances more time may be required. It is the responsibility of the student to request details about the format of the examination early enough to properly prepare for it.

The written proposal must be distributed to all committee members at least two weeks before they vote on the outcome of the written part of the exam. No changes may be made to the proposal after it is distributed to the committee members. While the criteria used in the evaluation may be specific to each student, all written dissertation proposals will be evaluated on the student's understanding of relevant academic literature, ability to formulate well-posed

economic research questions, and ability to develop and implement a methodology to address the research questions.

In extraordinary circumstances, the Graduate Committee may allow deviations from the policies outlined in this section, but all students are required to pass the preliminary examination. Note that the preliminary examination must be completed at least seven months prior to the final defense of the dissertation.

8. The Dissertation

A doctoral dissertation must be completed before the awarding of a Ph.D. degree. The purpose of the dissertation is to demonstrate the student's ability to conduct significant original research, to analyze the information obtained from the research, and to present the results in a form acceptable to the supervisory committee. The student normally works closely with the major professor during the preparation of the dissertation. The student should also consult regularly with the other members of the supervisory committee regarding their dissertation work.

Before substantial time is invested in a particular topic, the student shall prepare a dissertation proposal, including identification of the problem to be studied, a review of literature relevant to that problem, and an outline of the research procedures to be used. The candidate shall defend that proposal at a seminar. In consultation with the major professor, the student shall schedule the seminar and arrange for the announcement of the time and location to faculty and graduate students in economics. The presentation shall be open to faculty and graduate students. The oral defense of the dissertation proposal must be completed at least six months prior to the date of the final Ph.D. oral dissertation defense. Any deviation from this requirement must be

approved by all members of the supervisory committee and the Director of Graduate Studies. If the supervisory committee decides that the proposal or the presentation is unsatisfactory, the supervisory committee will provide the student with feedback on the changes that need to be made. A second oral defense of the dissertation proposal is held after the candidate has made the changes specified by the supervisory committee. This process has to be repeated until the supervisory committee determines the student's proposal and presentation are satisfactory.

The tentative completed dissertation is defended in a public final oral examination. The student is responsible for scheduling the final oral examination. The student must submit the form *Approval To Schedule Final Examination* to the Graduate School by the deadline set by the Graduate School. Students should begin the process of scheduling the final examination well in advance of the desired date due to the difficulty of finding a time that all faculty members will be available.

Copies of the dissertation must be provided to each member of the final examining committee at least two weeks before the final oral examination. At least three-fourths of the committee must agree that the dissertation is in acceptable form before the final examination may be scheduled. All departmental graduate faculty must be notified of the time and place of the examination and the title of the dissertation. The final oral examination is public, i.e., it is open to all interested individuals.

The candidate normally will be requested to review in 20 or 25 minutes the problem addressed by the dissertation and the analytical procedures and major findings. This presentation will be followed by questions from and discussion with the examining committee over these topics and related topics in the major and minor fields. To pass the final oral examination, the

candidate must receive the approval of at least three-fourths of the examining committee. With the permission of at least three-fourths of the committee, a failed oral examination may be retaken no sooner than three months from the date of the failure.

After passing the oral examination, the student needs to make changes to the dissertation as required by the committee members. The dissertation must also conform to Graduate School guidelines concerning format and appearance. The *Final ETDR Ballot* needs to be approved by the committee members prior to submission of the dissertation to the Graduate School.

For more details and restrictions see the *Graduate Handbook*.

9. Concurrent MA Degree

A student enrolled in the Ph.D. program may choose to pursue an M.A. degree in economics. The requirements for the M.A. degree can be met with 30 credit hours taken for the Ph.D. program and by passing both qualifying examinations. It is possible for a student enrolled in the Ph.D. program to earn an M.A. degree without taking any additional courses or exams beyond those required for the Ph.D. degree. The student should inform the Director of Graduate Studies as soon as the decision to pursue the M.A. degree has been made, but is required to do so prior to filing a Program of Study for the Ph.D. degree or scheduling the Ph.D. qualifying examinations. The Director of Graduate Studies will notify the Dean of the Graduate School that the student wishes to pursue the M.A. degree.

As soon as possible after notifying the Director of Graduate Studies, the student will file a Program of Study. The Director of Graduate Studies will normally be listed as the major professor on the Program of Study, but any eligible faculty member may do so if they are

willing. The supervisory committee will consist of the major professor plus two other faculty members chosen by the student in consultation with the major professor.

The Program of Study for the M.A. degree must be approved by the Graduate School prior to filing a Program of Study for the Ph.D. degree. The 30 hours of coursework used to fulfill the requirements for the M.A. degree should be listed on the Ph.D. Program of Study, along with a notation that the courses included are required for the Ph.D. After the Program of Study has been approved by the Graduate School, and at least two weeks before sitting for the second of the two PhD qualifying exams, the student needs to submit to the Graduate School the *Approval to Schedule Final Examination* form. The final examination date should be listed as the date of the second of the two qualifying exams.

10. Miscellaneous

10.1 Assistantships

Each year the Department of Economics offers assistantships to some of its graduate students. The number of assistantships available in a given year depends on the size of the GTA budget the department receives from the College of Arts and Sciences. Because the budget is, regrettably, not large enough to provide financial assistance to every graduate student, the Department Head and the Director of Graduate Studies must decide which students are to be offered support. Renewal of support from one year to the next is not guaranteed. These decisions are based on various criteria.

Appointment or reappointment to a GTA position depends on suitable progress in terms of grades, courses taken, comprehensive examinations, satisfactory completion of prior GTA duties, and compliance with all university requirements.

Grades are important, especially in core courses (graduate micro, macro, and econometrics). An A in a core course is weighted more heavily than an A in an applied economics course (especially at the 600-level). In turn, an A in an applied economics course counts more than an A in a course from another department.

Progress toward completing the degree is also important. Graduate students seeking financial assistance are expected to stay on a schedule that allows them to complete their degree in a timely fashion. Students are expected to complete at least nine credit hours each semester until they have fulfilled their credit hour requirements. Unless there are extenuating circumstances, required courses should be taken as soon as possible, and students in the Ph.D. program should take the qualifying and preliminary exams immediately after they have completed the necessary coursework. Students with an assistantship should only take courses that appear on the Program of Study unless they have the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies.

Because the department relies on graduate students to teach some of its courses, graduate students with the academic ability, composure, and communication skills necessary for classroom instruction will be given a high priority for an assistantship. International students can be considered for classroom teaching positions only if they have received a passing score on the SPEAK test, administered by the English Language Program.

Other things equal, students in the Ph.D. program will be favored over students in the M.A. program, but the type of program is less important than a student's academic record. Students who have completed at least four years in our graduate program will generally be a lower priority for support than students in their first four years unless the department needs the skills of more senior students, e.g., to teach.

10.2 Enrollment Requirements

A student working for a doctorate must be enrolled at Kansas State University during the semester in which the preliminary examination is taken and in each subsequent semester until the degree requirements are met and the dissertation is accepted by the Graduate School, unless a leave of absence is approved by the major professor, Department Head, and Dean of the Graduate School. Failure to enroll will result in loss of candidacy. To regain candidacy, the student must successfully petition the Readmission Committee of the Graduate School. For more details and restrictions see the *Graduate Handbook*.

10.3 Exceptions

Unless explicitly stated elsewhere in this document, a request for an exception from the policies in this document should be made in writing by the major professor to the appropriate administrative body, with copies sent to the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Head. For policies originating from the Graduate School, the request should be directed to the Dean of the Graduate School. For policies originating from the Ph.D. program or the department, the request should be directed to the Graduate Committee. Contact the Director of Graduate Studies for information concerning the appropriate direction for the request.