Oral Examination

A one-hour oral examination is conducted during the last academic term prior to the commencement service in which the student expects to graduate. The oral examination covers the dissertation and relevant areas of cognate academic disciplines which are necessary for a full evaluation of the research. The oral examination over the dissertation is directed by the major professor who supervised the research, other faculty members who comprise the major department, and the external readers. Questions may be submitted by any authorized person who participates in the oral examination.

The Oral Examination Committee is composed of all faculty members in the major field department, faculty members under whom the student has taken a seminar in the major field, and the external reader of the dissertation. The Oral Examination Committee makes the final decision as to whether the student passes his oral examination.

Summary of Requirements

- Graduate Research & Writing: 2 hours
- Graduate Teaching: 2 hours
- Major Seminar One: 4 hours
- Major Seminar Two: 4 hours
- Major Seminar Three: 4 hours
- Major Seminar Four: 4 hours
- Minor Seminar One: 4 hours
- Minor Seminar Two: 4 hours
- Minor Seminar Three (or Elective): 4 hours
- Minor Seminar Four or Major Seminar Five: 4 hours
- Supervised Departmental Reading: 2 hours
- Supervised Instruction: 2 hours
- Comprehensive Program Exams: 4 hours
- Dissertation: 16 hours
- Oral Examination: 4 hours
- Total: 64 hours

Dissertation Fees

Reader’s Fee

At the time of the submission of the dissertation to the major department, the student must deposit a minimum dissertation reader’s fee of $250.00.

Binding Fees

After the dissertation is formally approved by the Doctor of Philosophy Committee, the candidate must deposit sufficient money with the PhD office to cover the cost of binding four copies, for making a microfilm copy, and for publishing the abstract in Dissertation Abstracts International. The microfilm copy and three copies of the dissertation remain the property of the Seminary, and one copy of the dissertation becomes the property of the student. The student must request in writing permission