

Graduate Advisory Committees: Students in degree programs requiring a thesis or dissertation must form a graduate advisory committee. Graduate advisory committees (i) provide advice and guidance to students to facilitate completion of their thesis or dissertation projects and (ii) ensure that students have designed and completed a research project suitable for a thesis or dissertation, exhibited mastery of the subject area and the thesis or dissertation project, and have produced a suitable thesis or dissertation document.

Master's Students: Graduate advisory committees for Master's students must have a minimum of 3 faculty members. One committee member is the advisor. At least one other committee member must be from a discipline other than that of the advisor. A student's advisor typically chairs the committee, although the final defense exam is chaired by a Dean's Representative that is a committee member, but not the advisor. All committee members must hold VCU graduate or affiliate graduate faculty status. The advisor and at least one other committee member must hold VCU graduate faculty status.

Doctoral Students: Graduate advisory committees for doctoral students must have a minimum of 4 or 5 (per program guidelines) faculty members. One committee member is the advisor, who typically chairs the committee. At least 2 committee members must be from within the Advisor's discipline and at least 2 committee members must be from another discipline. A student's advisor typically chairs the committee, although the oral candidacy exam is chaired by a Dean's Representative that is a committee member, but is not the advisor. All committee members must hold VCU graduate or affiliate graduate faculty status. The chair and at least two other committee members must hold VCU graduate faculty status.

Adapted in part from the VCU Bulletin. Students should see the VCU Bulletin for additional information.

Approved by the School of Medicine Graduate Programs Committee: 2022.01