# THESIS AND THESIS EXAMINATION POLICY CHANGES AT-A-GLANCE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Old regulations: Thesis examination regulations prior to September 1, 2014</th>
<th>New regulations: Thesis examination regulations as of September 1, 2014</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Scheduling an Examination</strong></td>
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<td>A thesis examination can be scheduled after completion of all degree requirements</td>
<td>All members of Supervisory Committee have reviewed the student’s research and a relevant written sample of the materials related to the thesis OR the entire draft thesis document <a href="#">{program-level choice}</a> AND Supervisor has determined thesis meets the minimum standard</td>
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<td><strong>Composition of the Examination Committee</strong></td>
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<td><strong>For Master’s:</strong> The examining committee consists of supervisor + two other members, one of whom must be external to the student’s program If there is a Co-supervisor but not a formal Supervisory Committee: two other examiners still required, one must be external to the program If there is a formal Supervisory Committee: only one additional examiner external to the program is required.</td>
<td><strong>For Master’s:</strong> Supervisor + an additional member of academic staff + an Internal Examiner or External Examiner <strong>For Master’s with Supervisory Committee:</strong> Supervisor + Supervisory committee + an Internal Examiner or External Examiner</td>
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<td><strong>For PhD:</strong> Supervisor + Supervisory committee + at least two other members, one of whom shall be external to the student’s program and the other external to the university</td>
<td><strong>For PhD:</strong> Supervisor + Supervisory Committee + Internal Examiner + External Examiner</td>
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### Internal/External Examiner
- No specified criteria for the Internal/External Examiner, but the he or she must be outside of the department
- The program determines if the Internal Examiner needs to be external to the program [program-level choice]
  - AND
  - Internal Examiner must meet the following criteria:
    - a. Well-established research reputation
    - b. Expertise in area of student’s research
    - c. Experience in evaluating theses at graduate level
    - d. Experience in supervising to completion at graduate level
    - e. Not close personal friend of Supervisor
    - f. Has not collaborated with Supervisor in past five years
    - g. Has not worked with candidate

### External Examiner
- No restriction on the number of appointments of the external examiner
- Normally, the external examiner can only serve in the same program once every two years.

### Outcome of the Exam
- Pass/Fail on the thesis and on oral examination; no limit on time for post-exam revisions
- More clear, defined outcomes and revision timelines:
  - Pass with no revisions [submit within 5 days]
  - Pass with minor revisions [submit within 30 days (1 month)]
  - Pass with major revisions [submit within 180 days (6 months)]
  - Fail

*This document only highlights the major changes. Please review the [Academic Regulations](#) sections in the current Graduate Calendar to understand the new regulations for Thesis and Thesis Examinations. For more information on the old regulations, see the Handbook of Supervision and Examination in the [2014-2015 Graduate Calendar](#).*