

Ph.D. PROGRAM – PhD Thesis Proposal

(to be signed by thesis committee members upon completion – submit to Thayer Registrar - MacLean 103)

NAME _____ (please print)

Date of Oral Examination: _____ Date of Advancement to Candidacy: _____

Date of Thesis Proposal: _____

Research Area(s): _____

Proposed Thesis Title: _____

Action Recommended by Committee: Pass, Fail, or Conditional Pass with condition(s) listed below

Thesis Committee Signatures:

(please print last name) (Advisor) Date: _____

(please print last name) (Member) Date: _____

(please print last name) (Member) Date: _____

(please print last name) (External Member¹) Date: _____

(please print last name) (Optional Member) Date: _____

(please print last name) (Optional Member) Date: _____

¹ An External Committee Member is optional for the proposal, but required for the final defense

From the Thayer School Guide to Courses and Programs—Doctor of Philosophy Program Description

Thesis Proposal

The candidate demonstrates mastery of an area of specialization by writing and defending a thesis proposal within the first 18 months of candidacy. A thesis committee, approved by the director of the PhD program, advises the candidate on the proposed thesis research and administers the thesis proposal defense. The PhD examination committee consists of a minimum of three full-time Dartmouth faculty members of which a minimum of two must be from Thayer (including the dissertation advisor) and an external member with a faculty equivalent research appointment outside of Dartmouth is optional, but not required. Note that although optional at the proposal stage, an external member is required for the final thesis committee and defense. The external member may participate in meetings in person or via videoconference. The candidate's proposal—a presentation of the proposed thesis research—explains the scope and importance of the proposed research and plans for its completion. The defense presentation should be understandable, at least in a general way, to students and faculty not in the subject area.

Two weeks before the defense, candidates must:

- Submit the thesis proposal in writing to their committee
- Submit an electronic copy of the thesis proposal notice to the Thayer Registrar for distribution to the faculty and for posting. Students may request their thesis proposal be private and only open to their thesis committee. In this case, the thesis proposal notice is still required by the Thayer Registrar but will not be distributed to the faculty or others.

Students who do not pass may be permitted to present the proposal again—one time only—within the following three months.