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GRADUATE HANDBOOK

**Graduate Handbook
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This Handbook is designed to supplement the information given in the *Graduate School Calendar*. The student should be acquainted with the information provided in the *Calendar* and not rely entirely on the material presented here. Students are responsible for being familiar with the guidelines of the University and the Department.

INTRODUCTION

McMaster University

McMaster University is situated in Hamilton, Ontario at the western tip of Lake Ontario, sixty kilometers southwest of Toronto, and sixty kilometers northwest of Niagara Falls.

Incorporated in 1887 under the terms of an Act of the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, the University was the outgrowth of two colleges which had undertaken educational work in Ontario since the 1830s. In 1957 the Act underwent major revisions and McMaster University is now one of fourteen private, but provincially funded, universities in the Province of Ontario.

The University has approximately 32,119 full-time and part-time undergraduate students and 5,251 full-and part-time graduate students. The University has emphasized research in medicine, science and some areas of the arts and has exceptional laboratory facilities and a research library including, among other collections, the papers of Bertrand Russell.

Graduate Programs in Religious Studies

Since 1964, the Department of Religious Studies at McMaster has offered graduate programs dealing with religion and human religious experience, past and present, East and West. The Department has no confessional ties; it seeks to cultivate reflection and solidly-grounded arguments. The Department draws on a wide variety of methodological resources, especially philosophical, philological, literary, historical, and social scientific, in the effort to understand religion and religious phenomena.

The Department is a member of the Council on Graduate Studies in Religion and upholds the standards enunciated by that organization. Students who earn graduate degrees at McMaster must demonstrate excellence in the scholarly study of religion and the capacity for significant independent research, writing, and teaching in recognized areas of specialization within religious studies. There are currently about 33 graduate students enrolled in the Department, and 13 professors active in graduate supervision.

For more information about Religious Studies faculty members, please visit [the Department of Religious Studies website](#).

Graduate students in the Department benefit from the McMaster University Library System, one of the finest research libraries in Canada. For information regarding the four libraries in the University Library system please visit the [McMaster Library website](#).

In addition, the Department invests significant time and resources in planning and facilitating guest speakers for the benefit of our graduate students and faculty. These events aim to cross disciplinary boundaries and foster shared interests while providing key learning and networking opportunities.

The Department has a history hosting a Harry Lyman Hooker Distinguished Visiting Professor Lecturer nearly every academic year. The Hooker Visiting Professor typically offers a public lecture, Departmental seminar, and time with graduate students to discuss their research.

Religious Studies is also a regular co-sponsor of the History of Medicine Speakers (via Professor Ellen Amster, Hannah Chair in the History of Medicine), a speaker series which provides complementary education to classroom education (see the [History of Medicine and Medical Humanities website](#)).

Fields of Study

The Department has three graduate fields of study, Asian Religions, Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity, and Western Religious Traditions, and research is conducted in a range of topics and traditions, time periods and cultures, and employs a wide variety of approaches: textual, ethnographic, historical, philosophical, theological, philological. The Department offers three degrees, including a one-year MA, two-year MA, and a PhD.

Asian Religions

Students who complete graduate MA degrees in Asian religions have a broad understanding of Buddhism and East Asian religions, Indian and East Asian cultures and—as appropriate—languages, past and present. Our graduates have the necessary research skills to begin to conduct independent research in their respective areas of specialization.

PhD graduates from the field of Asian religions have the necessary methodological competence, advanced research skills and knowledge not only to evaluate the research of others but also to advance the study of Asian religions by contributing to original research in their respective areas of specialization. They also have the ability to communicate effectively to those within their discipline, to academic audiences and to the broader public, both in writing and through pedagogy. Students have a systematic and thorough understanding of Buddhism and East Asian religions, Indian and East Asian cultures and—as appropriate—languages, past and present.

The Asian field covers two areas of study: Buddhism (primarily in India, China, and Japan) and East Asian Religions (including Confucianism, Daoism, New Religions, and Shintō). These two areas are separate and distinct disciplines in which all three core faculty members in the field, Professors Benn, Clarke, and Rowe, have expertise.

Buddhism

Courses in the Buddhism area survey the extant corpus of Buddhist canonical literature in Sanskrit, Pali, Tibetan (RS 714 “Topics in Indian Buddhist Texts”) and Chinese (RS 712 “Topics in the Study of Chinese Buddhist Texts I: Translated Texts”) and also Buddhist apocrypha in East Asia (RS 713 “Topics in the Study of Chinese Buddhist Texts II: Indigenous Chinese Writings”). Japanese Buddhism is covered in RS 716 (“Topics in Japanese Buddhism”), and modern and contemporary Buddhism in RS 719 (“Topics in Modern and Contemporary Buddhism”). Various topics are surveyed under the same course code; for more details, refer to individual course subtitles.

Recent scholarship including dissertations and emerging areas of research in Buddhist Studies such as the origins of the Mahāyāna, Buddhism and Science, Esoteric Buddhism in East Asia, Buddhist art, Buddhism and gender, New Buddhist movements, and Anthropology of Buddhism are surveyed in RS 718 (“Topics in Buddhist Studies: Recent Scholarship”); monasticism, the rise and fall of female (bhikṣuṇī) monasticism, Indian Buddhist literature, Buddhist archaeology and epigraphy, the Indian Buddhist monastery, and pilgrims’ accounts of Indian Buddhism are covered in RS 711 (“Topics in Buddhist Thought and History”); daily life in India around the turn of the Common Era, monastic law (vinaya), Buddhist scholasticism (abhidharma), Indian scriptural anthologies, and manuscript cultures and collections in RS 714 (“Topics in Indian Buddhist Texts”); Japanese Buddhist nuns, East Asian Buddhist literature, Buddhist animals, and Buddhism and mortuary ritual are explored in RS 716; and Buddhist modernism, Buddhism and war, and Buddhism and globalization in RS 719.

East Asian Religions

Courses in the East Asian Religions area survey Daoist practice and literature (RS 724 “Topics in Daoism”), with a particular focus on the Daoist canon, and various other topics in Chinese religions, such as medicine, literature, Confucianism in medieval China, and health and healing (RS 726 “Topics in Chinese Religions”). Courses in Japanese religions cover Original Enlightenment thought, Kamakura Buddhism, combinatory paradigms of kami and Buddhas, and new religious movements (RS 723 “Topics in Japanese Religions”), with some seminars configured to help prepare students for comprehensive examinations (RS 722 “Readings in Japanese Religions”).

Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity

Students who complete the MA in Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity possess broad knowledge of early Jewish and Christian history, early Jewish and Christian texts, and their reception from ancient to contemporary times. They also learn relevant ancient languages. Often that means Hebrew and Greek, but students have also learned other languages such as Aramaic and Ethiopic.

MA graduates of the field of Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity acquire the research skills to begin independent research in their areas of specialization. PhD graduates acquire the necessary research abilities to design and execute research projects, which generate new insights, to apply the most recent methodologies of the discipline, to think critically and constructively about the scholarship at the forefront of the discipline, and to communicate complex and challenging ideas effectively, both in written form and orally, to various audiences.

The field of Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity covers two areas of study: ancient Judaism and ancient Christianity. The areas are taught by Professors Tervanotko and Thiessen. A distinguishing feature of the graduate program in Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity in our Department has been our commitment to overcoming traditional barriers between the study of Judaism and Christianity. Consequently, students major in either Judaism or Christianity in antiquity, but also take courses in the other tradition.

Judaism in Antiquity

Students focus on the so-called Second Temple Judaism, which refers to the time span of time span from the time of the end Babylonian exile to the Roman conquest of Jerusalem, ca 70 CE. They also acquire general competence in the study of pre-exilic texts and their ancient near eastern cultural contexts and the New Testament. As the faculty expertise relates mostly to the late Second Temple era (the Greco-Roman period), students’ research projects often address texts composed during this time.

Christianity in Antiquity

Students who concentrate in ancient Christianity focus primarily on the study of the New Testament and early Christian texts. They also acquire general competence in the study of Second Temple Judaism.

Students needing beginning (or intermediate) Greek are directed to the undergraduate offerings in the Classics Department. Students needing introductory and intermediate Hebrew can take it through our Departmental undergraduate offerings. We also make a point of seeing to it that some of our seminars are devoted to advanced readings in Greek and Hebrew, so that students can meet their requirements through those seminars.

The field of Judaism and Christianity in Antiquity trains students who will specialize in Judaism and

Christianity in antiquity in the relevant languages and ancient historical contexts, while also enabling them to benefit from our Department's strengths in modern and contemporary Judaism and Christianity, in order to prepare them for a wide range of positions in Religious Studies Departments.

Western

MA graduates who have focused on Western religious traditions have a broad understanding of Western religions, cultures, languages, and intellectual traditions, and of the philosophical and theoretical approaches to the study of religion that arise from those traditions. Graduates are in a position to think critically about the category of religion and its relation to other intellectual and cultural categories, and about the vital role religion plays in global culture, politics and society. Graduates have acquired a working comprehension of established techniques of research and have demonstrated the ability to develop a sustained argument in written form concerning texts and/or other cultural phenomena (such as rituals, myths, literature, performances, art, and film) that have religious content.

PhD graduates from the Western field are in a position to contribute new knowledge about the category of religion and its relation to other intellectual and cultural categories, and about the vital role religion plays in global culture, politics and society. Graduates have demonstrated the ability to conceptualize, design and carry out independent and original research on complex issues in a specialized sector of the field, concerning texts and/or other cultural phenomena (such as rituals, myths, literature, performances, art, and film) that have religious content. PhD graduates have a thorough and comprehensive understanding of Western religions, cultures, languages, and intellectual traditions, and of the philosophical and theoretical approaches to the study of religion that arise from those traditions.

The Western field of the Department comprises four areas: Religion and Politics (RP), Religion and Culture (RC), Western Religious Thought (WRT), and Islamic Studies (IS). Professors Amster, Hollander, Kroeker, Planinc, Rothenberg, and Takim as well as associate members from a variety of other Departments, teach in this field.

Religion and Politics

The study of "religion in the public sphere," and associated inquiries into how notions of secularity and religiosity have arisen in the West, and how they figure into contemporary political life and legal cultures has in recent years become increasingly prominent within the academic study of religion. Our own long-established area "Religion and Politics" provides students with essential grounding in the classical and modern sources that inform such debates, as well as the opportunity to engage with leading contemporary theorists working on the relevant questions.

Through coursework and, in the case of doctoral students, preparation for comprehensive examinations, students study the interrelations between religion, ethics, and politics from ancient Greece to the modern West. Areas of concentration include: (1) the history of political philosophy; (2) analysis of literary expressions of an understanding of religion, ethics, and politics; (3) conceptions of the interrelationships between religion, politics, and secularity (including conceptions of "political theology") in Christian, Jewish, and Islamic intellectual traditions; (4) 19th-21st-century continental philosophy and theory.

Religion and Culture

The "Religion and Culture" area includes courses that are both thematic and tradition-specific, and that highlight some of the most enduring as well as emerging topics in the study of religion and culture. Specifically, we offer an overview of classic and contemporary anthropological theory in the study of

religion (RS 781), as well courses that focus on the development of anthropological theory in the study of Asian religions (RS 709) and Islam (RS 788). The field of diaspora study and globalization is a focus of much recent research and analysis, and is covered in our seminar on the topic (RS 782). Gender and feminist theory in the study of religion forms another significant body of literature, a literature that students may engage with in our seminar on the topic (RS 789). Also of note is the wide appeal and cross-listing of most of our graduate seminar offerings. Specific seminars are cross-listed with Anthropology, Sociology, the Institute for Globalization and the Human Condition, and Gender and Social Justice. Students from other Departments may also take our seminars for credit in their home Departments.

Western Religious Thought

This area covers philosophy of religion, theology, and ethics in the classical, medieval and modern periods. Areas of specialization include patristic thought, nineteenth- and twentieth-century continental philosophy, the interrelations between philosophy and religion, confrontations and interactions between religious thought and secularism, modern theology and ethics, and theory - including feminist and gender theory. Our research and teaching on diverse currents in Western thought includes the study of literature, art, and aesthetics. Coursework and comprehensive examinations cover both historical-systematic studies of key theological and philosophical themes and authors and specialized contemporary topics.

Our graduate program facilitates interdisciplinary approaches to the study of religious phenomena and their cultural contexts. Thus, students working on Christian theology and ethics will do so with some coursework on New Testament or other ancient and medieval texts in the Christian tradition. They may choose to do so in the framework of pursuing Christianity in Antiquity as their minor area. Similarly, students working on Jewish thought or on topics in modern or contemporary Judaism, take one or more courses on ancient Jewish texts, and may pursue a minor in Judaism in Antiquity. This allows them to build familiarity with biblical and rabbinic texts and thus to develop their ability to teach courses on Judaism more broadly.

There are important links between the study of contemporary currents in religious thought and the study of philosophy, critical theory, or literature. Students can accordingly take up to two courses toward their degree in a different Department, e.g., Philosophy, Political Science (McMaster's Department has significant strengths in political theory), or English and Cultural Studies (which has strengths in critical theory). By the same token, our graduate seminars often attract graduate students from other programs (especially Philosophy and the MA Program in Cultural Studies & Critical Theory) for whom the authors and themes we study are also part of the canon of their disciplines or specialties. The resulting mix of students in our seminars offers, in its turn, an enriching intellectual experience for our own students, who are able to both encounter the similarities among interests across institutional-disciplinary boundaries, and better take the measure of how they understand their own disciplinary approaches, as distinct from those in philosophy, literary and cultural studies, etc.

Islamic Studies

Seminars in Islamic Studies focus on Qu'ran and Hadith (GLOBST 701), Islam, diaspora, and globalization (748, 767, 782), fundamentalism (766), and anthropology of Islam (788). Seminars that focus on Islam offered by associate members in their home Departments, such as CMSTMM 710 International Communication: Islam, Feminisms and the Global Media Sphere (Mincheva), are open to our students. The Department also offers Introduction to Modern Standard Arabic I and II (Arabic 2AA3; Arabic 2AR3) In spring 2023, participating area faculty will devise the area's major and minor comprehensive exams for incoming doctoral students.

Summary of Degree Requirements

Below is a summary of requirements for the one-year MA, two-year MA, and PhD degrees. Additional explanation follows.

Note: Courses may be “half” courses, meaning three units over one term, or “full” courses, meaning six units over two terms.

One-year MA	Two-year MA
<p>I. Coursework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RS 701 Issues in the Study of Religion AND • Five half courses to be completed over the Fall (two or three courses) and Winter (two or three courses) terms. <p>II. Major Research Paper</p> <p>III. Additional Requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGS/101 Academic Research Integrity and Ethics Training • SGS/201 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Training 	<p>I. Coursework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RS 701 Issues in the Study of Religions AND • Six half courses <i>including</i> a concentration (three half courses in one area) <p>II. Language requirement: Demonstrated ability in a language other than English. Supervisors may recommend additional language training.</p> <p>III. Thesis or project</p> <p>IV. Additional requirements:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • SGS/101 Academic Research Integrity and Ethics Training • SGS/201 Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act Training

PhD

I. Coursework

- RS 701 Issues in the Study of Religion
AND
- Five (half) courses
- Additional courses may be required by the candidate's advisory committee.

II. Language requirement

- The minimum PhD requirement is competence in two foreign languages. Areas may have additional language requirements.

III. Two comprehensive exams

- One exam in the major and one in the minor area of study.

IV. Thesis proposal and defence

V. Thesis and thesis defense

The Department recognizes a particular merit in courses in which a number of people meet together regularly. In light of this, in normal circumstances, a minimum of two-thirds of the course work requirements for any degree should be met by courses that are **not** individually arranged.

MA Programs

Advisory Committees and Supervisors

Students entering the one-year MA are advised by the Chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee on their courses and overall progress. Students, in consultation with the Chair of GAC, will be responsible for finding a supervisor for their Major Research Paper, typically by the first week of January.

Students entering the two-year MA program should nominate an advisory committee of at least two faculty members by the third Wednesday in October. One of these faculty members is the supervisor and chair of the committee and is usually from the student's major area of study. The advisory committee will discuss with candidates their interests and course of study. It will advise the student on whether to write a thesis or do a project.

Courses

RS *701 Issues in the Study of Religions is required of all MA students. It offers a forum for the discussion of issues central to the field of religion, and for the exploration of recent developments. This course is normally offered in the first term.

In addition to RS *701, students in the one-year MA complete five half courses, at least four of which must be in Religious Studies; one half course may be taken outside the Department in a relevant area of study. Students are free to choose any courses from among the Department's offerings.

In addition to RS *701, the two-year MA degree must complete six half courses, at least four of which must be in Religious Studies; two half courses may be taken outside the Department in a relevant area of study. Three of these six courses should be in an area of concentration. To receive the MA, the student must have at least B- standing in these courses.

Language Requirement

The minimum language requirement for the two-year M.A. is a demonstrated ability in the language other than English which is most likely to be of assistance in the student's research. Responsibility for the choice of the language(s) to be examined lies with the advisory/supervisory committee which acts in accordance with individual area requirements, where such exist. In some cases, additional languages or more advanced levels of language competence may be required by the advisory/supervisory committee.

For both two-year MA and PhD students, the language requirement(s) should be met in one of the following ways:

- Where a student has already done course work in the relevant language at the university level, a grade of B in a full year (six unit) second level, or above, university course (if taken elsewhere, equivalent to the relevant McMaster course) taken within the last five years is generally considered adequate for fulfilling the requirement in the language.
- Language exams in French and German are set by the Department and normally graded by readers in the French and German Department. B- is the minimum passing grade. French and German exams are normally taken at three set times during the year. When the university offers facilities for examination (e.g., Latin, Spanish), the passing of the relevant examination will fulfill the requirement.
- Where languages are proposed for which no university offerings are available, the advisory/supervisory committee is responsible for arranging for the examination of the language.
- Where the language chosen is the student's native language, and his or her knowledge of that language is of university level, the language requirement in the language may be understood as having been fulfilled.

Field/Area-specific Language Requirements and Recommendations

Buddhism and East Asian Religions

For two-year MA students whose theses involve thematic or comparative studies, two years study of Sanskrit or Tibetan or Japanese or Chinese is normally required. For PhD students, the requirement must be met for a second language as well.

Judaism in Antiquity

Two-year MA students must complete language requirements in Hebrew and a modern language, usually French or German.

Christianity in Antiquity

Two-year MA student must complete language requirements in Greek and a modern language.

Western Religious Traditions

Two-year MA students must complete requirements in the language most likely to be of assistance in the student's research.

Thesis, Project, Major Research Paper

Areas in which a candidate may conduct research are limited by available faculty and library resources. Candidates should not assume that they may write on any subject in the whole field of religious studies.

MA Thesis

A thesis deals with a specific topic of research and includes the scholarly presentation of the results. It should show an ability to deal with primary material on a limited problem. Text-critical studies or translation with commentary may also be proposed. Theses typically range from 80 to 100 pages in length.

MA Project

A project normally covers broad areas of learning. It is designed to permit students to move into new areas, to read large and unfamiliar bodies of texts, and to deal comprehensively with large questions. The basic difference between the two kinds of written documents is that a thesis attempts to arrive at some conclusion and to justify that conclusion with appropriate evidence. A project report, on the other hand, is not argumentative but informative. It recounts the research done by the student. Argument may fill the account, but it is argument merely reported on. Whereas a thesis argues for the certain or probable truth of a conclusion, a project report narrates what the anticipations of the inquiry were and whether they were realized or disappointed; what the strategy of the research was and what changes, if any, it underwent; finally, what the results were, positive or negative. Typical length ranges from 50 to 60 pages.

Major Research Paper

The MRP must be no more than 10,000 words (35 to 40 pages, font 12, double spaced, 1.25 inch margins, footnote or endnote citation), not including the bibliography, and focus on a topic related to Religious Studies. The topic should be of a scope that is manageable within the time available and may develop an idea from an essay submitted for a course. Students should refer to the specific timeline for the MRP on the Avenue to Learn MRP site.

Proposals

When the thesis or the project route for the two-year MA is agreed upon, the advisory committee helps the student to settle on a topic. The student writes a formal proposal, two to three pages in length (300-600 words) with a brief bibliography. Please see the Guidelines for Proposals included in Appendix A. The proposal is submitted first to the student's committee for the approval and signature of each member. The committee chair submits the proposal to the Graduate Affairs Committee for approval, together with a recommendation for the supervisory committee. The supervisory committee may or may not be the same as the advisory committee. The Graduate Affairs Chair will notify the student and the chair of the newly formed supervisory committee of the decision. The approval of the proposal and the composition of the supervisory committee will be reported for information at the next regular Department Meeting.

One-year MA students will first report their MRP general topics and supervisor to the Chair of the GAC for overview and consultation. Students next submit their supervisor-approved proposals to the Graduate Affairs Committee for consideration at the February GAC meeting.

PH.D. Program

Overview of the Timeline for Completion of the Ph.D. Program

Regulations regarding the time within which various components of the PhD program are to be completed are set by the Department and the School of Graduate Studies. This time framework seeks to facilitate the completion of the PhD within the four years for which funding is provided.

- By the third Wednesday in October in their first year, each candidate will nominate an advisory committee of at least three members. Normally, a PhD advisory committee consists of the principal advisor from the student's major area of study, a second advisor, and a minor area representative.
- Coursework is typically completed during the first two academic years of the program.
- Comprehensive examinations are to be completed within 24 months of the start of the program.
- One month after the completion of the comprehensives the one-paragraph thesis statement and the form for nominating a supervisory committee must be submitted to the Graduate Affairs Committee.
- The thesis proposal must be submitted to the Graduate Affairs Committee within 6 months of the student's completion of the comprehensive examinations.
- Language requirements must be completed within 36 months of the start of the program.

The advisory/supervisory committee must indicate on the annual or semi-annual report of full-time PhD students those who do not meet these deadlines. In such cases, the supervisor is to indicate in an accompanying note whether progress is deemed unsatisfactory or whether there are extenuating circumstances.

In the latter case, new deadlines for the fulfillment of the requirements are to be indicated on the progress report form, and arrangements made for a new meeting of the committee and the filing of a new report immediately after the date of the revised deadline. Failure to meet the revised deadline will normally result in unsatisfactory progress being indicated.

The chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee is to review all reports and to ensure compliance with these regulations.

Courses

Students working toward the PhD must take at least five half courses at the graduate level at McMaster beyond the M.A. RS *701 may not be counted among the five half courses required for the PhD degree. Additional courses may be required by the candidate's advisory committee.

Students who have completed an MA elsewhere must normally complete at least one half course in the minor area of study. Students who have completed an MA in the Department of Religious Studies at McMaster do not have to do additional course work in the minor area, though they are encouraged to do so.

Three half courses must be in Religious Studies; two half courses may be taken outside the Department in a relevant area of study. Exceptions may be made by the candidate's advisory committee.

To receive the PhD degree, the student must have at least B- standing in each of the required courses.

Language Requirements

The minimum PhD requirement is competence in two languages. Work in several areas of the

Department entails additional language requirements, as specified below. Final judgement on fulfillment of the minimum language requirements rests with the student's advisory committee, whose decisions are subject to Departmental approval.

Language requirements should normally be met within 36 months of the beginning of the PhD program.

Field/Area-Specific Language Requirements and Recommendations

Buddhism and East Asian Religions

For Ph.D. students whose theses involve thematic or comparative studies, two years study of Sanskrit or Tibetan or Japanese or Chinese is normally required. For Ph.D. students, the requirement must be met for a second language as well.

For Ph.D. students whose theses, in the judgement of the supervisory committee, require analyses of texts in the original languages, (a) three years of Sanskrit or Tibetan or Japanese or Chinese, and (b) two years of a second language from this list are required.

Judaism in Antiquity

Ph.D. students must complete language requirements in Greek and two modern languages (usually French and German) as well as the equivalent of three years of undergraduate courses in Hebrew.

Christianity in Antiquity

Ph.D. students must complete language requirements in Hebrew and two modern languages (usually French and German) as well as equivalent of three years of undergraduate courses in Greek.

Western Religious Traditions

Ph.D. students must complete requirements for two languages most likely to be of assistance in the student's

research.

Comprehensive Examinations

Each doctoral student must write two comprehensive exams, one in the major area of study and the other in the minor area of study. Normally, comprehensive examinations are taken after the completion of the required coursework. In accordance with regulations set by the Graduate School, comprehensive examinations are to be completed within 24 months of the beginning of the PhD program.

Comprehensive examinations are written four times during the academic year; dates are circulated by the graduate program administrator and available on the Avenue to Learn site for graduate students.

An essential implication of the PhD degree at McMaster is that the holder has a comprehensive breadth knowledge and a maturity of approach to a wide range of topics within the discipline. The comprehensive examinations test this knowledge and maturity.

The examinations are meant to examine the adequacy of the student's habitual knowledge. This means, negatively, that the examinations are not meant to test the student's research capacities, or command of the recondite research data that might go into a doctoral dissertation. Positively, it means that the examinations test the student's hold on general knowledge: the kind of knowledge that all persons in the field are presumed to have.

The habitual knowledge in question is a hold on evidence, not merely a catalogue of opinions. It might largely consist of information, which should be selective, relevant to issues, and up to date. It would allow the student to define the main issues in the discipline and to say on what basis they are diversely viewed by diverse schools of thought.

Within these general parameters, the comprehensive examinations take somewhat different forms in each field. It is important that students begin discussion about their examinations with their advisory committee early in their program, ideally by the spring committee meeting in their first year. Each area provides a basic reading list for comprehensive examinations which the student should obtain in the early stages of their program.

Students are advised to consult the Chair of their Advisory Committee regarding the format and questions for both their major and minor comprehensive examinations. Faculty members may choose to have the questions they have written kept in a file in the Departmental office to be shown to future candidates. If they choose to do so, they must indicate in some way which of the questions were specifically written in the light of the particular research interests of the candidates who wrote the examination. This file will be reviewed periodically and the questions from examinations written over five years earlier may be removed from the file. Faculty members may also choose to make available previous questions to students in person, with proper explanations, or to describe the kind of questions given to the candidate in other ways.

Students should indicate their intention to take a comprehensive examination during one of the periods scheduled for their writing by filling out, in consultation with their supervisors, the required form at least one month before the date of writing. Exceptionally, if a student wishes to write outside the set dates for reasons of personal circumstances, the supervisor of the student is to put the request to the Chair of Graduate Affairs, who will make the decision in consultation with the Chair of the Department, and advise the supervisor accordingly.

In writing the major examination, there usually will be two equal parts, each a maximum of five hours,

written on different days; for the minor, there usually will be two equal parts, each a maximum of four hours, written on different days. One of these two parts may be taken orally; in this case, the time limits will be appropriately adjusted.

The scope of the comprehensive examinations is determined by each area; the questions for the examinations must be set by a faculty member from the area in which the examination is being taken. The questions are to be submitted one week in advance of the examination to the office of the Department chair, which administers the examination. The questions are to be included in the student's permanent file.

Each examination is to be graded by two faculty examiners, both members of the field in which the examination is being written; the first reader must be a faculty member from the area of the examination. Results of the comprehensive examinations are to be announced to the student within one month of the completion of the last examination. A grade of B- or above is required for passing the examination. A "Pass with distinction" is awarded when the student achieves an average grade of A (numerical 11) or A+ (numerical 12 in both the major comprehensive examination and the minor).

Research projects, done prior to the examination and written outside its framework, are not to be assigned in lieu of comprehensive examination.

Thesis Statement

Within one month of the completion of comprehensive examinations, students should submit a statement of their thesis subject to the Graduate Affairs Committee. At this stage, the statement can be very short (a paragraph). This statement is to be accompanied by the Doctoral Statement Submission form, which must be signed by Chair of the student's advisory committee. This form is available on the graduate student Avenue to Learn website.

Supervisory Committee

At the same time, the student, after consulting with the advisory committee, will submit a "Nomination of the Supervisory Committee form for the approval of the Graduate Affairs Committee (available on the Avenue to Learn site). This form will include the names of three (occasionally four) faculty members who will serve as the supervisory committee for the thesis. The main supervisor of the thesis is to be drawn from the faculty members in the area within which the thesis is being written.

Normally supervisory committees include at least one other faculty member from the Department, and where feasible, a faculty member from outside the Department of Religious Studies. In cases where faculty members from other universities are included in the proposed supervisory committee, the chair of the advisory committee will contact that person to ascertain that he or she is prepared to join the committee. After the composition of the proposed supervisory committee has been approved by the Graduate Affairs Committee, the Chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee will request the Dean of Graduate Studies formally to invite the member from another university to join the committee. The Chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee will report the composition of the supervisory committee at the next Departmental meeting.

Thesis Proposal and Defence

Areas in which a candidate may conduct thesis research are limited by available faculty and library resources. Candidates should not assume that they may write on any subject in the whole field of religious

studies. Each topic must be carefully examined, defined, and approved by the Department. Queries on this matter should be directed, very early in the candidate's career, to their advisory committee.

Within six months of the completion of comprehensive examinations, the student is to submit a thesis proposal to the Graduate Affairs Committee for oral defence and approval. The proposal is to be roughly five to seven pages in length (1500-2000 words) and is to be accompanied by a brief preliminary bibliography. See "Guidelines for Proposals" (Appendix A) for specific topics to be covered by the thesis proposal.

The proposal is a formal piece of written work which will be judged for composition, clarity, and style as well as content. While not intended to be a report on research already completed, the proposal should include a clear statement of the question which the thesis is intended to answer, of the method and procedure with which the inquiry is to be pursued, and, in the light of the current state of scholarship, of the contribution which the dissertation can be expected to make. The careful formulation and defence of a thesis proposal is intended to ensure the projects viability in principle at an early stage in the student's research.

Once the thesis proposal is signed by each member of the student's supervisory committee, the committee chair submits it to the Graduate Affairs Committee for approval. A one-page abstract is, at the same time, circulated to all faculty members. The full proposal is kept in a file in the Department office and made available to faculty. All interested members of the Department Are invited to submit written responses to the proposal and/or to participate in that portion of the Graduate Affairs Committee meeting during which the proposal is discussed.

The proposal is evaluated by the Graduate Affairs Committee (no sooner than two weeks after the general circulation of the proposal) prior to the meeting at which the student will present. The student and the student's supervisor (or a substitute designated by the supervisory committee) is also expected to attend. At the meeting, the student presents their proposal to an open session of the Graduate Affairs Committee. The presentation requires that students demonstrate a capacity to explain their work to educated non-specialists as well as specialists and respond thoughtfully to requests for clarification, objections, and suggestions. **The student is not to read the defense of proposal from a prepared script.** The Chair of the Graduate Affairs Committee notifies the student and the chair of the supervisory committee of the Graduate Affairs Committee's decision. The approval of the proposal is reported for information at the next regular Department meeting.

Final Copy and Defence of the Thesis

The final thesis copy should be prepared in accordance with the Graduate School booklet "A Guide for the Preparation of Thesis." This guide, thesis regulations, forms, and information about the final stages of submission and defence are available through the [School of Graduate Studies website](#). Responsibility for compliance with these rules and neat preparation of the final copy rests with the student.

The Doctoral Thesis Defence submission system is available online. **AFTER** consultation with your supervisory committee regarding a submission/defense date/timeline, the student is responsible for initiating the process. For information, please visit the school of graduate studies website, "[Completing your Degree](#)".

Additional Information

When an arrangement is made between a student and a faculty member for an individually-oriented course

to be taken for credit, a form must be filled out and submitted to the Graduate Affairs Committee. The Committee will arrange for the assignment of a course number.

Arrival and Registration

The letter of admission from the Dean of Graduate Studies specifies that students should arrive on campus before undergraduate classes begin, normally on the first Tuesday following Labour Day; See “[Sessional Dates](#)” on the University Website.

Students holding teaching assistantships are expected to arrive the day after Labour Day.

All incoming graduate students and in course students are expected to attend an orientation session sponsored by the Department (details will be circulated). The McMaster Graduate Student Day is part of the orientation program; all graduate students should be available to participate in the program.

Incoming students should consult with the staff in the Department office, UH B126B, for registration details and other procedures. At that time students are assigned a desk in one of the basement offices of University Hall; a number of graduate students share each room.

Much of the communication with students both by the Department and the University takes place via e-mail. Be sure to register your McMaster e-mail account as soon as you arrive on campus. It is your responsibility to check your e-mail daily.

Students should regularly check the Avenue to Learn site for Graduate Students for announcements, key dates, forms, and other information.

Bursaries, External Awards, and Scholarships

Financial support from the University is available to full-time students on a competitive basis and the “Plan for Graduate Education at McMaster” sets a minimum guaranteed funding for doctoral students. For funding information, please visit the [School of Graduate Studies](#), or consult with the Graduate Administrator in Religious Studies.

Bursaries

There are some funds available for bursaries, awarded on the basis of financial need. Students apply directly to through AwardSpring in Mosaic.

External Awards

As a condition of retaining their McMaster Scholarship funds, all graduate students who are eligible are required to apply for appropriate external awards such as SSHRC (Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council) and OGS (Ontario Graduate Scholarships). Application forms and further information will be available online in September. Further information about scholarships and awards will be communicated in September at our annual scholarship workshop. information about scholarships and awards is posted regularly on the bulletin board outside the Department office.

Travel Scholarships

Mary Margaret Scammel Travel Scholarship:

For a Religious Studies Graduate Student to support travel costs associated with thesis research or language study. Value \$1,000.00.

James F. Harvey and Helen S. Harvey Travel Scholarships:

Three scholarships of \$1,000.00 awarded for graduate students to engage in research requiring travel.

Graduate Students Association Travel Assistance Grants:

First priority is for research travel; second, for expenses incurred in attending a conference to present a paper, abstract or poster; third, for conference attendance. Application dates are generally in September, January, and May.

Shastri Indo-Canadian Institute, Student Fellowships:

For graduate students to do research or language training in India.

The Freeman Family Foundation Bursary Fund for Study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem

Established in May 2000, this bursary is offered on an annual basis to members of the University at large.

University Scholarships

The standard graduate scholarships range between \$5,000 and \$13,000 and may be available to students holding full-time status for the first two years of the M.A. program and the first four years of the Ph.D. program.

Outstanding students are eligible for additional university scholarships such as the Harry Lyman Hooker Senior Scholarship, the Ashbaugh and the Dalley Fellowship. The Department is responsible for nominating candidates for these awards.

The Abby Goldblatt Memorial Scholarship

To be awarded to a graduate student who demonstrates academic excellence in the study of Early Judaism. The award will be made by the School of Graduate Studies on the recommendation of the Chair of the Department of Religious Studies.

Alvin Irwin Ogilvie Graduate Scholarship

To be awarded to a student registered in a Ph.D. program in the Faculties of Humanities and Social Sciences. The award is made annually by the Scholarships Committee of Graduate Council on the basis of Departmental nominations.

The Julian F. Pas Memorial Scholarship in Chinese Religions

To be awarded to a student in a masters or doctoral program (Taoism, Chinese Folk Religion or Chinese

Buddhism) in Chinese religions. The School of Graduate Studies will make the award on the recommendation of the chair of the Department of religious studies.

The Passi Bursary

To be awarded to a graduate student who demonstrates financial need and is studying Hinduism and Jainism. The award will be made by the School of Graduate Studies on the recommendation of the Chair of the Department of Religious Studies.

The Krishna Sivaraman Memorial Scholarship

To be awarded to a student in the masters or doctoral program in Hinduism and Indian Philosophy. The school of graduate studies will award the scholarship on the recommendation of the chair of the Department of religious studies, taking into consideration academic achievement and a demonstrated interest in Hinduism and Indian philosophy.

Defences

The form, “Intention of Candidate to Submit M.A. Thesis/Project,” must be submitted, with the approval of the supervisor, to the Chair of the Department **at least four weeks before the anticipated date of defence**. This form facilitates the coordination of arrangements necessary for M.A. defences.

A completed thesis must be examined by a committee of not fewer than three members (including the supervisor). When the supervisory committee consists of only two members, a third member is appointed by the Department chair. The thesis is defended by the candidate in an oral examination before this committee. Both the written thesis and its oral defence must be deemed satisfactory. The final approved thesis must be uploaded to the School of Graduate Studies through MacSphere. Information regarding final submission of theses can be found on the [Graduate Studies website](#).

A completed MA project must be examined by at least two faculty members appointed by the area. This examination of the project may be oral or written, or both. During the examination, the student is expected to be able to give a clear account of the research project, and to present evidence of its scope and significance. A electronic copy of the project is to be submitted to the Department.

Gender Studies and Social Justice Diploma

This diploma is available to students enrolled in the Ph.D. program in Religious Studies. It is intended for students whose research is focused on gender studies, sexuality studies, or feminist research. The diploma aims to enhance the intellectual development and training of students already enrolled in doctoral programs by allowing them to combine disciplinary research with interdisciplinary scholarship from the fields of Gender and Feminist Studies. Students already pursuing a Ph.D. may apply for the Graduate Diploma program during their first year of doctoral studies, to start in their second year. Occasionally, students may be allowed to begin the Graduate Diploma in their third year of the Ph.D.

The diploma option adds value to a standalone doctoral degree in a single discipline by providing concrete and sustained occasions for doctoral students to engage multiple scholarly and pedagogical approaches as these are taken up in seminar meeting and coursework, research symposia and thesis work.

Students completing the diploma will receive the notation “Completed Graduate Diploma in Gender Studies and Social Justice” on their academic transcript in addition to the doctorate degree from their home graduate unit. Formalizing this additional qualification will help students to be more competitive as they apply for academic jobs in not only Women's and Gender Studies but also traditional disciplines, many of which intersect with and are enhanced by research and teaching in feminist and gender studies.

There are no additional fees (application or tuition) for this program. Further information can be found at the [Gender and Social Justice program website](#).

GSARS: Graduate Student Association of Religious Studies

There is an active Graduate Students Association (GSARS). Each fall GSARS elects an executive, two students to be representatives at Department meetings, as well as students to serve on the Graduate Affairs Committee and Colloquium Committee. GSARS sponsors a variety of academic and social events during the year.

Proposal Guidelines for Projects and Theses (MA and PhD)

Thesis proposals should be structured around the following six headings. students may choose to incorporate the headings directly into their proposals, or simply to incorporate the information described under the headings without organizing the proposal explicitly under the six headings. An outline of proposed chapters is also useful.

1. Introduction
2. Research Questions
3. The scholarly context
4. Material
5. Method(s)/Perspective(s)/Mode of procedure
6. Bibliography

Introduction

The proposal should begin by clearly stating the subject of this thesis. A brief statement of the importance of the work and its relevance for the field of Religious Studies should follow.

Research Question

The proposal should make clear what questions the thesis will be posing and trying to answer. The proposal may also suggest a hypothesis that answers the questions.

The scholarly context

The proposal should make clear what is new in the proposed research in relation to earlier studies. The authors referred to here should be in the bibliography, but the bibliography should not be limited to works directly cited in the proposal (see below).

Material

In this section the student should make clear what it is that constitutes the primary data for the thesis. This may be texts or field research. In both cases the student needs to be specific. The student needs to show the committee that he/she knows what texts are important to the research or what questions will be asked in the field.

Method(s)/Perspective(s)/Mode of procedure

Students should be able to show that they think about what they are doing in relation to how they're doing it. Obviously, not everyone will be engaged in extensive methodological discussions, but everyone will have a certain perspective. This section will show the committee that the student is aware of the fact that he or she is studying the chosen problem/question in a certain way and not in another. It will also give the student the chance to show the committee that the perspective or method chosen is better suited than any other method or perspective to accomplish the intended goal.

Bibliography

The bibliography should be carefully presented, with secondary sources separated from primary sources. Sources dealing specifically with methodology may also be put in a separate section of the bibliography. This will make it easier for members of the committee to assess the value of the bibliography.

M.A. project proposals

The project proposal should also address all six categories. It should describe the area chosen for research, detail the purpose of the research, and discuss the scholarship on the topic. The bibliography should be carefully selected and the proposal needs to make clear the relevance of the items in the bibliography to the project. The project proposal must also indicate what shape the final written document will take.

The Graduate Affairs Committee normally meets during the last week of the month during term. Please note the [“Thesis Proposal Approval” form](#) must be completed, signed and submitted with your proposal. See Appendix A.

Status and Change of Status

The Graduate Calendar makes it clear that all graduate students who have not received degrees and who wish to be considered students in this University must register and pay fees for each year from their admission until the degree is awarded. This also applies to candidates who have finished their residence requirements but have not submitted their thesis.

Students may apply for various kinds of off-campus status; they all require the consultation of the advisory/supervisory committee, the Department, and the Graduate School. Students who are in residence may be granted regular off-campus status to pursue study at another academic institution. In exceptional cases, students may be granted leaves-of-absence, during which time their status in the program and funding are suspended.

Students who wish to assume any kind of off-campus status should first obtain the relevant information and forms from the [School of Graduate Studies website](#) and then proceed directly to obtain the necessary approvals. UNDER NO CIRCUMSTANCES SHOULD STUDENTS ABSENT THEMSELVES FROM RESIDENCE WITHOUT SEEING THAT THEIR STATUS IN THE UNIVERSITY IS CLEAR.

According to University regulations, a candidate whose work, in the judgment of the Department, has not progressed satisfactorily may be asked to withdraw from the program at any stage. The normal times for a thorough review of each candidate's work are at the end of the first year and after doctoral comprehensive examinations.

Summer activities

The University considers its graduate program to operate on a twelve-month basis, and scholarships are given accordingly. Students should plan to pursue their studies for the entire year, taking no more than two weeks for vacation.

The summers are normally used to prepare for comprehensive examinations, to conduct thesis research, and to pursue language study. Summer courses in several languages are often available on campus.

Supervisory and Advisory Committees

The student's advisory/supervisory committee is responsible for assisting the student in formulating the thesis or project proposal, advising the student as the research proceeds, and assessing its results.

The approval of all committee members is required before a MA/PHD thesis (or project) proposal can be submitted to the Graduate Affairs Committee; the approval of a majority or supervisory committee members is required before a thesis (or project) can proceed to an oral defence. It is therefore imperative that the student not proceed at length on proposal or research work without its progress being reviewed and approved by the committee.

Committees are required to meet twice each year. Additional meetings may be requested by the principal advisor or supervisor (hereafter "chair") of the committee or by the student. The committee chair bears primary responsibility for the supervision of the student's program. Other members of the committee lend their expertise and share responsibility for seeing that the student's work meets the standards of academic competency. The student normally submits their work to the chair, who is responsible for passing the work on to other members of the committee. Members of the committee are responsible for communicating their evaluation and comments to the chair as well as to the student. If a committee member recommends substantial revision of the work, the recommendation and its reasons should be communicated in writing to both the chair of the committee and the student.

If, in the opinion of the chair, the evaluation or recommendations of committee members show significant disagreement, the chair will arrange for a committee meeting in which the issues can be discussed. Unresolved disagreement shall be brought to the attention of the chair of Graduate Affairs and/or the chair of the Department, who will attempt to mediate. The mediator will write up a summary of the discussions that follow, including any recommendations that are made; the summary is to be made available to the student. If resolution proves impossible, the mediator will recommend to the Graduate Affairs Committee the reconstitution of the student's committee. If this avenue is not sufficient, the student is encouraged to discuss the matter with the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies.

A committee member who resigns from a committee should communicate the reasons for the resignation in writing to the chair of the committee and the student.

When all committee members are in agreement that a thesis (or project) proposal is satisfactory, the student is responsible for seeing that the proposal is initialed by members of the committee and submitted to the Graduate Affairs Committee. When the supervisory committee has approved a thesis or project for oral defence, the supervisor informs the chair of the Department in order to initiate defence proceedings.

Duties of M.A. and Ph.D. Advisory/Supervisory Committee

- Assist in the planning and approving of the student's course work and research; define major and minor requirements,
- Decide, within Departmental regulations, on the timing of the comprehensive examinations and, where applicable, language and other examinations or projects.
- Maintain knowledge of the student's research activities and progress.
- Meet at least twice each year (Fall and Spring) with all students in residence, and report to the Department on the above matters annually.

- Initiate appropriate action if the student's progress is not satisfactory. Any requirement that the student withdraw shall need approval of the Department and the Faculty Committee on Graduate Admissions and Study.
- Act as internal examiners for the thesis and serve, where appropriate, as members of the final Ph.D. oral examination committee.

Duties of the Department

- Approve the composition and work of the advisory in supervisory committees.
- Review annually each student's course grades and research progress as reported by the committee.
- Conduct major and minor comprehensive examinations.
- Conduct language examinations.
- Name representatives to the final M.A. and Ph.D. oral examinations committees.

Teaching Assistantships

Many full-time students are employed as teaching or research assistants. The maximum duration of guaranteed teaching assistantships is two years for M.A. students and four years for Ph.D. students.

Each student with a teaching assistantship will be assigned in September and/or January to work with one of the members of the faculty. Students with teaching assistantships are expected to work the equivalent of ten hours per week during the academic year.

Limitations on Employment

Per section 2.5.3 in the Graduate Calendar, Full-time graduate students are encouraged to limit time spent on employment both inside and outside the University. It is recommended that full-time students who are participating in McMaster-based paid employment should work no more than an average of 20 hours a week to a maximum of 1005 hours in the academic year. Exceptions to this rule are possible with the approval of the School of Graduate Studies. Students are referred to the regulations in the [Graduate Calendar](#).

QUERIES AND ASSISTANCE

Although this Handbook seeks to cover most of the basic areas of the graduate program, questions may arise at any stage in the program. Students are encouraged to seek information and help as needed. Please note that the School of Graduate Studies Calendar is also an important source of information.

Doreen Drew is the Administrator for graduate affairs. Inquiries regarding procedures may be directed to her either in person in her office (UH B126B), by phone (ext. 23399) or by email to relstud@mcmaster.ca.

Students having difficulties meeting deadlines or with any aspect of their program are encouraged to discuss these difficulties with members of their committee. Students may also seek assistance or advice from the chair of the Department or the Chair of Graduate Affairs. These two faculty members can offer both formal and informal assistance depending on the needs of the student.

Guidelines and Proposal Submission Form

Guidelines for M.A. and Ph.D. Proposals

Thesis proposals should be structured around the following six headings. Students may choose to incorporate the headings directly into their proposals, or simply to incorporate the information described under the headings without organizing the proposal explicitly under the six headings. An outline of proposed chapters is also useful.

1. Introduction
2. Research questions
3. The scholarly context
4. Material
5. Method(s)/Perspective(s)/Mode of procedure
6. Bibliography

Introduction. The proposal should begin by stating clearly the subject of the thesis. A brief statement of the importance of the work and its relevance for the field of Religious Studies should follow.

Research Questions. The proposal should make clear what questions the thesis will be posing and trying to answer. The proposal may also suggest an hypothesis that answers the questions.

The scholarly context. The proposal should make clear what is new in the proposed research in relation to earlier studies. The authors referred to here should be in the bibliography, but the bibliography should not be limited to works directly cited in the proposal (see below).

Material. In this section the student should make clear what it is that constitutes the primary data for the thesis. This may be texts or field research. In both cases the student needs to be specific. The student needs to show the committee that he/she knows what texts are important to the research or what questions will be asked in the field.

Method(s)/Perspective(s)/Mode of procedure. Students should be able to show that they think about what they are doing in relation to how they are doing it. Obviously, not everyone will be engaged in extensive methodological discussions, but everyone will have a certain perspective. This section will show the committee that the student is aware of the fact that he or she is studying the chosen problem/question in a certain way and not in another. It will also give the student the chance to show the committee that the perspective or method chosen is better suited than any other method or perspective to accomplish the intended goal.

Bibliography. The bibliography should be carefully presented, with secondary sources separated from primary sources. Sources dealing specifically with methodology may also be put in a separate section of the bibliography. This will make it easier for members of the committee to assess the value of the bibliography.

Continued on page 2

MA projects. The project proposal should also address all six categories. It should describe the area chosen for research, detail the purpose of the research, and discuss the scholarship on the topic. The bibliography should be carefully selected and the proposal needs to make clear the relevance of the items in the bibliography to the project. The project proposal must also indicate what shape the final written document will take.

* The Graduate Affairs Committee normally meets on the last Wednesday of the month during term. Please note the "Thesis Proposal Approval" form which follows, must be completed, signed and submitted with your proposal.

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF RELIGIOUS STUDIES

PLEASE CHECK ONE OF THE FOLLOWING:

Thesis Proposal Submission

Project Proposal Submission

PLEASE CHECK M.A. OR PH.D.:

M.A.

PH.D.*

***ABSTRACT MUST BE INCLUDED WITH DOCTORAL PROPOSAL**

Please submit this form with a copy of your proposal. All members of your committee must indicate their approval by initialling beside their printed name.

NAME: _____

STUDENT NO.: _____

PROPOSAL TITLE: _____

**IT IS THE RESPONSIBILITY OF THE STUDENT
TO OBTAIN THE SIGNATURE OF EACH COMMITTEE MEMBER**

CHAIR: _____
Printed Name Initials

Member: _____
Printed Name Initials

Member: _____
Printed Name Initials

All Committee changes are subject to Graduate Affairs and Departmental approval.

Date of Approval: _____

