

The Dissertation Defense

Preparing for the Dissertation Defense: Preliminary Approval

All Committee members must preliminarily approve the Dissertation document before the student can apply for Dissertation Defense. By their signatures, Committee members certify that the Dissertation is ready for Defense.

One copy of the Dissertation, certified as complete and provisionally acceptable to the Committee and the Dean, and one copy of the Dissertation Defense Announcement must be submitted to the University Graduate School by the published deadline on the Academic Calendar. To obtain a copy of the form to be submitted, FIU **Graduate Student Forms** and then **Form D-5 Preliminary Approval of Dissertation and Request for Oral Defense**. An electronic copy of the Defense Announcement should be attached to the form in accordance with the format in the **Regulations for Thesis/Dissertation Preparation Manual**.

Announcement for the Dissertation Defense

The Announcement is an invitation to members of the University community to observe the Defense. NOTE: This Announcement will be posted on the University Graduate School's website for the academic community to view. Thus, the Dissertation abstract should be written clearly, in language accessible to nonspecialists, and free of unnecessary disciplinary jargon; all acronyms should be fully identified. The Announcement must include the following information:

- * Student's name
- * Committee Chairperson's name
- * Dissertation title
- * Dissertation abstract (purpose, methodology, findings/results, conclusions)
- * College name
- * Date, time, and place of the Defense

Format of the Dissertation Defense

The student should consult with his/her Chairperson on the format and the time parameters of the Defense. The material should be organized and verbally presented as a research study. The student should prepare visual aids, such as PowerPoint slides, to make the presentation, and provide written materials, such as printed PowerPoint slides, for the audience. The student should keep his/her oral presentation within the agreed time limit, and provide time for questions and comments at the conclusion of the presentation.

The student should bring a copy of the Dissertation Defense Report form to the Defense in order to obtain members' signatures. To obtain a copy of the form, see FIU **Graduate Student Forms** and then **Form D-6 Dissertation Defense Report**. After the Committee determines that the Defense was successful, the student should obtain signatures of all Committee members on this form. Required revisions should be noted on the form. This form must be filed in the University Graduate School no later than a week after the Dean has signed this form.