

Student Procedures for Thesis Defense

All Qualifiers must be completed before scheduling the Thesis Defense.

The Dissertation itself is normally preceded by a year or more of research and writing after the proposal. The Dissertation is a scholarly document describing the problem, related work, the student's approach, the results and insights achieved, and the significance of the work. The written dissertation must be presented to the Thesis Committee for approval. When the committee gives preliminary approval, the Oral Defense can take place. At the Oral Defense, the committee and the entire community will have the opportunity to question the work critically. Finally, the Thesis Committee must decide whether to approve the thesis.

A student will be certified for graduation and allowed to attend commencement ceremonies when the thesis is unanimously approved by his or her Thesis Committee and has been delivered to the Program Coordinator in final form, at which time the student will be awarded the degree of Doctorate of Philosophy in the field of Robotics.

External Committee Member

If your external committee member will be in attendance, it is very important that proper arrangements are made well in advance of his/her visit. It is your and your advisor's responsibility, along with the help of your advisor's support staff, to make sure that all travel arrangements, hotel, and an agenda are set up prior to his/her arrival. It's also important to inquire as to whether or not s/he has any other goals in mind during their visit other than to attend your thesis defense. Some examples would be, to give a special RI seminar talk, meet with other RI faculty, etc.

Timeline

At Least One Month Before

Be sure to check with Suzanne Muth (lyonsmuth@cmu.edu) before finalizing the date, to make sure there are no other orals scheduled at the chosen time. Thesis orals will not be scheduled to overlap. Once you have settled on a date/time Suzanne will help you to reserve a room.

PLEASE NOTE: Thesis defenses should not be scheduled after the last day of finals in the fall semester and not before the start of the spring semester. This is generally from mid-December to mid-January. Check the academic calendar for specific dates.

10 Days Before

Send email to Suzanne with the date, time, room, title, abstract, URL link to thesis, and thesis committee members, including external member affiliation. She will then post your thesis

oral announcement both electronically and physically. These must be posted at least one week before your oral, so PLEASE BE PROMPT!

Provide thesis committee with final draft of thesis document.

To reserve teleconferencing equipment, contact Suzanne at lyonsmuth@cmu.edu.

1 Day Before

Pick up yellow thesis oral signature card and thesis signature pages from Suzanne. Take yellow thesis signature card and thesis signature pages to oral and give them both to your committee chairperson.

On Thesis Day

Give yourself an extra half hour to make sure the room you've reserved is set-up the way you would like it and to make sure that catering services can enter the room to set up at least 30 minutes before your scheduled talk. Suzanne will place an order with campus catering for refreshments for your thesis defense.