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PH.D. HANDBOOK
2019-2020

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PROGRAM OVERVIEW

I. Goals and Objectives

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree is the highest scholarly degree awarded by Michigan State University. The goal of the Ph.D. program in the Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders (CSD) is to provide students with the necessary skills and knowledge to undertake productive academic and scientific careers, including teaching at the college/university level and conducting research in the basic and applied sciences related to communication and swallowing.

The following educational and scientific goals are emphasized in the CSD doctoral program:

- Understanding of the principles of scientific inquiry, ethics, and scholarly values
- Knowledge of the discipline of communicative sciences and disorders, including its history, issues, methods, and trends
- Expertise in an area of specialization, combined with the ability to generate and actively address important research questions in that area
- Proficiency in appropriate research, design, analytical, and technical skills
- Ability to communicate the results of research, including presentations at professional meetings and publication in peer-reviewed journals
- Understanding of methods for applying for research support and funding

II. Department Goals and Responsibility

The department has certain obligations to graduate students. Likewise, students have certain obligations to the department and to themselves. The department will strive to foster an environment that is supportive of excellence in scholarship and of mutual trust, respect, and integrity. Specifically, the department will provide students:

- An environment in which scholarly attainment and conduct of meritorious scientific research can be achieved
- Sensitivity and responsiveness to academic needs and desires, and the flexibility to make changes when needed, such that the program meets each student’s individual goals
- Encouragement for creative original study and research
- An annual evaluation of the students’ program
- Support and resources for a positive and productive graduate education experience
- Access to department bylaws and policies, including an avenue for input and representation
- Clear explanation of procedures for filing appeals and grievances

III. Student Goals and Responsibilities

Students are expected to meet the following goals and responsibilities during their programs:

- To demonstrate aptitude for, and sustained interest in, all aspects of the program, such that all requirements for the degree will typically be completed in 4 to 5 years (including summers)
- To produce research work that is worthy of publication, recognizing that publication is a fulfillment of the responsibility to share information with the scientific community
- To strive for superior performance in academic, research, and other pursuits
- To participate in departmental seminars and colloquia
• To participate, when possible and practical, in departmental teaching, research, or clinical programs as a means of developing skills in these areas, and, if applicable, to effectively fulfill assigned responsibilities as a graduate assistant.

FACULTY ADVISOR, GUIDANCE COMMITTEE, AND GRADPLAN

I. Faculty advisor

During the admissions process, a faculty member agrees to serve as the student’s faculty advisor. The role of the faculty advisor is to guide and oversee the student’s doctoral program on behalf of the department. The selection of the faculty advisor is based on the faculty member’s expertise in the area of the student’s research interests and usually arises from early communications between the prospective student and faculty members during the application and admission processes. The student should have identified a permanent faculty advisor no later than the end of the first semester in the doctoral program. The appointment of the faculty advisor must be approved by the department chairperson; it can be changed if needed later in the program.

II. Guidance committee

Within the first semester of study, the student must form a guidance committee, chaired by the student’s faculty advisor. Committee members are selected in consultation with the faculty advisor based on the student’s research area(s). The doctoral program director serves as an ex officio member of all guidance committees. In preparation for forming a guidance committee, students should review the relevant portions of the Academic Programs catalog (reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Print.aspx?Section=394) and read the Guidelines for Graduate Student Advising and Mentoring Relationships (grad.msu.edu/sites/default/files/content/researchintegrity/guidelines.pdf).

Working with the student, the guidance committee plans the doctoral program, modifies the program based on ongoing progress reviews, and supervises the student until completion of the program. The guidance committee must consist of at least four regular MSU faculty members (“all persons appointed under the rules of tenure and holding the rank of professor, associate professor, assistant professor, or instructor, and persons appointed as librarians”). At least three of the committee members must possess an earned doctoral degree. Two members must be regular faculty from within the CSD department, and at least one must be from an MSU department outside of CSD. An Emeritus faculty member may serve as one of the four committee members (including chairperson) with the approval of the CSD department chairperson. A non-tenure-stream faculty member may serve on the guidance committee with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. Faculty members from outside MSU may also participate in a guidance committee; such outside members must be in addition to the four regular MSU faculty members. The number of members who are not MSU regular faculty must not exceed the number of regular faculty on the committee. Instructions for seeking approval from the Dean of the Graduate School for adding non-tenure stream faculty or faculty members from outside MSU can be found at the following link: grad.msu.edu/non-regular-faculty-committees.
The membership of the guidance committee may be changed by the student, with approval from the faculty advisor, the doctoral director, and the chair of the department. The composition of the guidance committee must be approved by the department chairperson. Students should submit the Request for the Appointment of the Doctoral Guidance Committee form when they form their committee. The form Request for Changes in the Doctoral Degree Program should be used when students wish to make changes to their program.

The guidance committee must be formed and hold an initial meeting within the first two semesters of doctoral study. Within one semester after the committee meets for the first time, the chair of the guidance committee must submit the Report of the Initial Ph.D. Guidance Committee Meeting form, listing the student’s preliminary plan for achieving degree requirements, a plan of study with an approximate timeline for completion, and tentative information about the student’s predissertation and dissertation projects. Thereafter, the guidance committee is required to meet at least once every academic year and file the Annual Progress Report form to ensure that the student is progressing satisfactorily through the doctoral program.

III. Graduate Plan of Study (GradPlan)

GradPlan is the electronic system for managing graduate plans at MSU. All official MSU forms and procedures for the doctoral program are completed through GradPlan. This includes the initial creation of the Plan of Study, any modifications to the Plan of Study that occur during the student’s program, course selection, and more. By the last semester in the program the student must enter their IRB number and the Final Dissertation title into GradPlan in order to assure timely processing of their degree certification.

All CSD Ph.D. students are required to use GradPlan for tracking their Program of Study. GradPlan can be accessed at gradplan.msu.edu (login required). Instructions for using GradPlan are found at: grad.msu.edu/sites/default/files/content/gradplan/GradPlanStudentGuide.pdf.

DEGREE COMPONENTS AND REQUIREMENTS

I. Number of Credits

The total number of credits required for the CSD doctoral degree depends upon the student’s prior coursework, degrees, and experiences.

A. Students with a Prior Bachelor’s Degree

Students entering the program with a bachelor’s degree must complete a minimum of 90 graduate credits in order to achieve the Ph.D. degree.

B. Students with a Prior Master’s Degree

Students entering the program with a prior master’s degree must complete a minimum of 72 credits in order to achieve the Ph.D. degree. Students who completed their master’s degree within three years of enrollment in the doctoral program may transfer up to 9 graduate credits that were not counted for their undergraduate degree toward their doctoral degree.
C. Dissertation Credits

All students must complete a minimum of 24 dissertation and a maximum of 36 dissertation credits (CSD 999) at MSU. Dissertation credits may not be transferred from another institution.

D. Transfer Credits

Students may transfer a maximum of 9 credits to MSU from a prior institution. The duration of a student’s program is timed from when a student first enrolls in the degree program at MSU or the enrollment date for any course that is counted as part of the degree program or transferred from another institution. This rule has implications for the maximum total time that a student can enroll in a doctoral program (8 years). If a student transfers credits from a master’s degree program that was completed 3 years prior to enrollment in the doctoral program, MSU considers the student’s program to have started with the enrollment date of the first transferred credit.

All credit transfers require approval from the guidance committee. Only courses that contribute to the required components of the Ph.D. program may be transferred. Courses that have no bearing on the student’s doctoral studies plan may not be transferred. The following steps must be completed in order for students to transfer credits.

- The doctoral advisor emails the Academic Programs Office, comdis@msu.edu, listing the course(s) and institution(s) to be transferred
- The student has an original, official transcript from the prior university sent to: Academic Programs, CSD, 1026 Red Cedar Road, Room 109, East Lansing, MI 48824.
- After this information is received by the Academic Programs Office, the online transfer equivalency form will be completed by the Academic Programs Office.
- Transfer courses typically appear in GradPlan in two to four weeks after the transfer equivalency form is processed.

In some cases, a student may wish to transfer from an existing Ph.D. program. Such special cases must be coordinated with the Ph.D. Program Director, the Department Chair, and the College Associate Dean for Graduate Studies.

II. Coursework

The specific courses required for the CSD doctoral degree depends upon the student’s prior coursework, degrees, and experiences. In all cases, the specific coursework and number of credits for each component of the program must be approved by the guidance committee. The following coursework is required of all students, except where indicated below:

A. Graduate-level Courses (18 credits)

Students entering the program without a master’s degree will complete at least 18 credits of graduate-level coursework, including 9 credits of clinically focused courses from with CSD, as well as a research experience equivalent to the preparation for a master’s thesis.

B. CSD Clinical Courses (6 to 9 credits)

Students with a Master’s Degree who did not complete a clinical master’s in CSD within 3 years of enrolling in the doctoral program will select 2 to 3 courses from the CSD clinical coursework. Additional clinical courses may also be required of students with a clinical master’s degree as
determined by the guidance committee. Students who are not required to take CSD clinical courses may still elect to take such courses in consultation with their guidance committee.

C. CSD Core Courses (6 to 9 credits)

All students will successfully complete at least 2 out of 4 course courses addressing fundamental aspects of the field of communicative sciences and disorders, including

- speech perception
- speech production
- language science
- hearing science

These courses are not offered every semester or every year. Students are encouraged to plan carefully so they can take courses of interest to them while being mindful of which courses will be available during their programs.

D. Methods and Skills Courses (12 to 15 credits)

All students will select courses in statistics and experimental design, as well as in related areas such as signal processing, programming, instrumentation, or imaging. As part of these credits, students will be required to gain the equivalent of at least 1 credit each of courses (ideally, in CSD) on the scholarship and fundamentals of:

- Research (e.g., research ethics, grant-writing, public presentation and dissemination, academic writing)
- Education (e.g., course and curriculum design, teaching methods and pedagogy)
- Professional issues for academics (e.g., academic committees, editorial review, multicultural communication and competencies)

In addition to these required credits, students are encouraged to gain additional experiences in these areas (see III. Additional Courses and Experiences).

E. Specialized Study Courses (18 to 24 credits)

All students will take advanced graduate coursework in their area of research interest. Courses may be within the CSD department or within other departments at the University or beyond. Students may split these specialized study courses into a primary and secondary area as appropriate for their goals and interests. The specific courses that students take must be approved by the guidance committee.

III. Additional Courses and Experiences

In addition to approved coursework, all students will engage in the following experiences designed to prepare them for academic work in the field:

A. Responsible Conduct of Research (RCR) training.

Students must complete RCR training to fulfill annual requirements specified by the MSU Graduate College. If those requirements change during a student’s program, the student will be required to fulfill the more stringent and up-to-date requirement. Information about the Graduate School’s requirements can be found at the following link: grad.msu.edu/rcr. Communication Arts
and Sciences information RCR information can be found at: comartsci.msu.edu/responsible-conduct-research-rcr.

Students should log into the ABILITY information management system at ora.msu.edu/train/ to complete their on-line RCR training. This is the system that must be used for proper documentation of training. This system has replaced SABA effective December 2018.

B. Research ethics

All students will gain basic knowledge about research ethics during their scholarship and fundamentals and RCR courses. Students are also encouraged to gain additional experience with research ethics through coursework and regular, ongoing discussions with their doctoral advisor.

Before engaging in human or animal research, all students must complete the necessary training about subject protection. Appropriate training must be complete before students begin their pre-dissertation or dissertation research, participate in lab rotations, or participate in any other research-related activities.

- Information about the protection of human subjects can be found at the following link: http://www.hrpp.msu.edu/.
- Information about the protection of animal subjects can be found at the following link: http://animalcare.msu.edu/.

C. Grant-writing

All students will gain basic knowledge about grant-writing during their 1-credit scholarship and fundamentals courses described above. Students are also encouraged to gain additional experience with grant-writing either by taking a full 3-credit grant-writing course or by participating in grant-writing with their doctoral advisor. **Students are strongly encouraged to go through the process of submitting a grant, such as an NIH F31.** Pursuing such funding is considered to be an important and appropriate part of doctoral education in the department.

D. Teaching

All students will gain basic knowledge about teaching during their 1-credit scholarship and fundamentals courses described above. **Students are also encouraged to gain additional supervised or independent teaching experiences** by assisting a faculty member with a course, providing guest lectures, or taking significant independent responsibility for designing and teaching a course. The student’s committee will also work with the students to find additional ways for the student to become involved in teaching experiences.

E. Other Opportunities

In addition to required and elective coursework, students are encouraged to participate actively in ongoing department activities, including:

- Department, College, and University colloquia, including the Oyer Lecture
- Weekly joint writing times, when available
- The weekly CAS Proseminar or lecture series, when offered
- Open thesis, examination, and dissertation defenses for other students
IV. Initial Research Experiences

A. Laboratory rotation(s)

All students will complete at least 1 one-semester research experience in a laboratory other than the lab in which they primarily work (i.e., their doctoral advisor’s lab). This lab may be in CSD, in another MSU department, or outside of MSU. The expected outcome of the rotation will be participation in a research project and submission of a paper on the project. Depending upon the preferences of the faculty supervising the lab rotation, the student may register for up to 3 credits of independent study during the lab rotation, though registration for credit is not required. Students should record their participation in the laboratory rotation in the “other requirements” section in GradPlan.

B. Pre-Dissertation Research Project

All students will complete at least one research project prior to beginning their dissertation. Students will be responsible for all aspects of the design and conduct of the project, under the supervision of their faculty advisor. The student may begin the pre-dissertation project at any time after beginning their doctoral program; it must be completed before the student begins the comprehensive examination. The pre-dissertation project is not as formal as the dissertation; it does not require a committee, prospectus meeting, or defense. The expected outcome of the project will be a presentation at a national meeting and publication in a peer-reviewed journal. A previously completed Master’s thesis can satisfy the requirements for the pre-dissertation projects if the student prepares the paper for presentation and publication during their doctoral program. Students who matriculate to the Ph.D. program without a prior Master’s degree are expected to give a presentation about their pre-dissertation project to the department prior to the end of their fourth semester of study.

V. Comprehensive Examination

All students must pass a written and oral comprehensive examination prior to beginning their dissertation. With the approval of their guidance committee, students may start their comprehensive examination after they have completed nearly all of their required coursework and the pre-dissertation project. Lab rotations, teaching experiences, and optional components of the doctoral program may continue during and after the comprehensive examination.

Students must be registered at MSU during the semester(s) in which they take the written and oral comprehensive examination. Waiver of this requirement may be requested from the Dean of the Graduate School, if: (a) approved by the chair of the department and (b) the examination is administered during the summer session immediately following a spring semester during which the student was registered or immediately prior to a fall semester in which the student will be registered. The comprehensive examination must be passed within 5 years of the student’s first enrollment in the program (or the enrollment date of the first transfer credit, whichever is earlier). Students are responsible for ensuring that relevant forms related to the comprehensive examination are filed by their advisor.
The goal of the examination is to evaluate the student’s ability to integrate previously obtained knowledge while critically evaluating and answering questions about their area of specialization. The comprehensive examination consists of two parts: a written portion and an oral examination.

A. Written portion

The student and advisor begin the comprehensive examination process by completing the Request for Written Portion of Comprehensive Examination form. The written portion of the comprehensive examination involves a detailed paper in which the student independently answers a set of questions developed by the student’s doctoral advisor and guidance committee. These questions may address topics related to the student’s area of specialization and the potential direction of the dissertation.

The student will have 2 weeks in which to prepare answers to the questions. The written document should then be submitted via email to the student’s doctoral advisor and guidance committee members. After the student submits the paper, the committee will have up to 2 weeks to review the document and vote on whether the student may proceed to the oral examination. At least 75% of the committee members must vote in favor of proceeding to the oral examination. The vote may be taken by email.

If the committee members determine that the student may not proceed to the oral examination, they will provide feedback about revisions that must be made before the oral examination can be scheduled. The committee may also specify additional learning experiences that the student must undertake before revising and resubmitting the written document. The timeline for this revision will be determined by the committee, though the overall revision process must be completed by the end of the semester following the initial submission of the written portion.

The student will be given 1 opportunity to revise the written document in this fashion. If, after the student revises the document, the committee determines that the student still may not proceed to the oral examination, the committee will assign a grade of unsatisfactory to the student’s responses. The student will then be required to restart the comprehensive examination process from the beginning, with a new set of questions, after completing additional learning experiences on a timeframe specified by the committee. This will count as one of the maximum two attempts allowed to complete the comprehensive examination.

B. Oral examination portion

When the guidance committee feels that the student is ready to proceed to the oral portion of the examination, the committee chair will submit the Request for Oral Portion of Comprehensive Examination form. The oral examination provides an opportunity for the committee to explore the student’s written responses in greater depth and to ask about other topics that are relevant to the student’s studies. The examination will be scheduled for 2 hours. The student will start by providing a brief (10- to 15-minute) overview of the responses to the examination questions. The committee will then follow up with additional questions.

At the option and agreement of the student and committee, the oral presentation and initial question session may be attended by other CSD doctoral students and faculty. The examination must include a closed question session attended only by the student, the committee, and, potentially, the program director and department chairperson.
C. Outcomes

Following the oral examination, the guidance committee will assign a grade of satisfactory or unsatisfactory to the student’s responses and submit the Record of Comprehensive Examination form. At least 75% of the committee members must vote satisfactory for the student to pass the oral examination. An unsatisfactory grade will require the student to repeat all or part of the examination. The committee may request that the student redo only the oral examination; they may request additional revisions to the written examination; or, they may determine that the student must start the comprehensive examination process over again. The committee may assign additional learning activities before the student may proceed with the examination. The comprehensive examination process may only be repeated once. An unsatisfactory grade on the second attempt will result in the student’s termination from the doctoral program.

Students who satisfactorily complete the comprehensive examination will enter candidacy.

VI. Doctoral Dissertation

The culmination of the doctoral program is the dissertation and its successful defense. Dissertation research may involve experimental, quasi-experimental, descriptive, or other designs. The expectation is that the dissertation research meets the scholarly research standards and practices of the discipline.

The dissertation involves original and independent research that makes a significant contribution to knowledge in the field. Although the student will have input and guidance from the dissertation advisor and dissertation committee, the student is responsible for the development, design, conduct, and writing of the research project.

Per University policy, the dissertation and oral defense must be completed within 8 years of the student’s first enrollment in the program (or enrollment date of the first transfer credit, whichever is earlier).

A. Registration requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 24 and a maximum of 36 dissertation credits (CSD 999) at MSU. Students may not transfer dissertation credits to MSU from another institution. During the semester in which the oral defense is scheduled, students must register for a minimum of 1 credit (dissertation credit or other course) in order to maintain student status. Students may start taking dissertation credits when they become eligible for the comprehensive examination if their examination preparation is related to their dissertation.

B. Dissertation chair and committee

Within one semester after completing the comprehensive examination, the student will identify a regular CSD faculty member to serve as the chair of the dissertation committee. The selection of the dissertation chair should be guided by the student’s proposed dissertation topic. This chair may or may not be the primary doctoral advisor or head of the student’s guidance committee. Students may have a joint or co-advisor for the dissertation when necessary. The selection of the chair of the dissertation committee must be approved by the department chairperson. The doctoral program director serves as an ex officio member of all guidance committees.
Working with the dissertation committee chair, the student will form a dissertation committee. The committee may or may not have the same membership as the guidance committee. The process for compiling membership of the dissertation committee must follow the same rules as the guidance committee (see Section II), and the membership must be approved by the chair of the department. Students should submit the Request for the Appointment of the Doctoral Dissertation Committee form when they form their committee.

C. Prospectus meetings

After the dissertation committee has been formed, the student will submit a prospectus for approval by the committee. The prospectus should be prepared following the electronic thesis and dissertation guidelines found at grad.msu.edu/etd/. The specific format of the prospectus document should be determined by the dissertation director and committee.

The student will submit the written prospectus document to the committee by email. The committee will have up to 2 weeks to review the document. When the student and committee are ready, they will hold an initial meeting to discuss the project with the student. This meeting will include only the student and the committee members; other individuals may be invited to attend at the discretion of the committee and student. Following this meeting, the student may make changes to the document. Additional drafts of the prospectus may be reviewed by the committee, and additional preparatory meetings may be held as needed, until the committee and student believe that the document is ready for the prospectus meeting.

Once the committee has agreed that the prospectus document is ready to be discussed (based on a vote to proceed by 75% of the members of the dissertation committee), the dissertation chair will submit the Request for Dissertation Prospectus Meeting form, and the prospectus meeting will then be scheduled. The prospectus meeting will be scheduled for 2 hours, though students should plan for a longer period of time to allow for sufficient discussion of the project.

During the prospectus meeting, the student will provide an overview of the proposed research to the committee for its input and approval. The initial portion of the prospectus meeting will be open to members of the academic community and others. This will include the presentation by the student and questions from the audience. The meeting will then continue with only the committee and relevant faculty (e.g., the department chair and director of the PhD program) in attendance for further discussion of the project.

Although the prospectus document will have been reviewed by the committee (perhaps multiple times), the prospectus meeting should be viewed as a working meeting, and the presentation should be viewed as a draft of the proposed project, pending additional input from and final approval by the committee. The prospectus meeting should not be viewed an examination to be “passed” or “failed.” It is one step in the process of developing the student’s dissertation project that continues until the project is ready to be conducted.

At least 75% of the dissertation committee must approve the prospectus before the student can proceed with the dissertation. If the dissertation committee does not approve the prospectus, the student should work with the committee to revise the prospectus and gain approval before initiating the project. When the committee has agreed that the project can proceed, they will sign the Acceptance of Dissertation Prospectus form.
D. Preparation of the dissertation

The dissertation must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines for electronic theses and dissertations, available at: grad.msu.edu/etd/formatting-guide. Copies of dissertations accepted by the CSD department are available at the MSU libraries and in the Oyer building.

E. Submission of the dissertation to the dissertation committee

Once the chair of the dissertation committee determines that the dissertation is ready for consideration by the remainder of the committee, the student will submit the dissertation and abstract to the dissertation committee and its chair. **This must be done at least six weeks before the end of the semester in which the student plans to graduate.** No exceptions to this timeline will be allowed, in order to ensure that there is sufficient time for paperwork and other requirements to be completed within the term.

The dissertation committee will then have up to 2 weeks to review the dissertation. During this time, the committee may request additional information or revisions to the document prior to voting on the status of the written document. The committee will consider factors such as the clarity of the writing; the presentation of the rationale, methods, data, results, conclusion, and significance of the findings; and the student’s responses to questions about the dissertation.

At least 75% of the committee must agree that the document is satisfactory before the oral dissertation defense can be scheduled. (Note that this does not mean that further revisions may not be requested by the committee after the oral defense; it simply means that the committee judges the document to be sufficient for the student to proceed to the oral defense.)

F. Oral defense of the dissertation

After the committee has determined that the student may proceed to the oral dissertation defense, the advisor will submit the Request for Oral Dissertation Defense form, and the defense will be scheduled. The oral defense must be advertised at least 7 days prior to the date of the meeting. The student should contact the department administrator with the title of the dissertation, the names and titles of the committee members, the date of the oral defense, and the location of the oral defense, so that appropriate notices can be posted.

The oral defense should be scheduled for 2½ hours, though the student should plan for additional time for discussions with the committee after the defense has been completed. The initial part of the defense will be open, that is, faculty, members of the academic community, and members of the public may attend the student’s presentation. Students and faculty should not bring refreshments for the committee or audience to the dissertation defense.

The student will begin the defense by providing an overview of the dissertation project, lasting approximately 30 to 40 minutes. Audience members may then ask questions. This will typically begin with attendees who are not members of the academic community, followed by members of the academic community and members of the committee. Committee members may ask questions at any point in the process. The audience will then be dismissed and the final portion of the examination will begin. Only dissertation committee members, the program director, and the department chairperson may be present during the final examination and voting period.
Following the oral defense, the guidance committee will assign a grade of satisfactory or unsatisfactory to both the oral defense and the written dissertation document, individually, using the Results of the Written Dissertation Paper and Oral Dissertation Defense form. An unsatisfactory grade on the oral defense will require the student to repeat the oral defense, following additional learning activities determined by the dissertation committee. An unsatisfactory grade on the written document will require the student to complete additional work on the written document in order to address concerns raised by the committee.

In order for the student to pass the dissertation process, the oral defense of the dissertation and the written dissertation document must each be approved by a positive vote from at least 75% of the dissertation committee, with not more than one dissenting vote from among the MSU regular faculty members of the committee.

G. Final submission

Once the committee has approved the dissertation (including all revisions) and oral defense, the student will submit the document to the chair of the dissertation committee for final review and approval. The dissertation chair will then complete the Outcomes of the Dissertation form. The student must submit this form along with a final electronic copy of the dissertation online.

Information about electronic submission is available at grad.msu.edu/etd/.

H. Publication of the dissertation

All doctoral dissertations must be submitted to the MSU graduate school using ProQuest-UMI (proquest.com/products-services/dissertations/). Supplementary materials (e.g., video or audio files) may also be submitted to ProQuest with the written approval of the dissertation committee chairperson. The dissertation will be available electronically at the MSU libraries. The abstract will be published online at proquest.com. The student is responsible for all fees associated with publication and distribution of the abstract. An extra fee is required if the dissertation is to be copyrighted. Information about publication through ProQuest is available at etdadmin.com/cgi-bin/main/resources?siteId=295#guides. The student may order bound paper copies of the dissertation for himself/herself, the department, the dissertation committee, or others through ProQuest-UMI or through alternate means.

I. Requests for hold/embargo on publication of documents submitted to ProQuest

Students submitting a thesis/dissertation to ProQuest can now request a hold/embargo of publication by ProQuest by contacting the Graduate School at msuetds.approval@grd.msu.edu or calling 517 353 3220. In response to the request, the Graduate School will send directly to the student a form that needs to be completed and turned to the Graduate School prior to the document submission to ProQuest. The form needs to be signed by the student’s major professor and by the Associate Dean of the student’s college. The request for the hold/embargo may be for six months, one year or two years. Requests for a period longer than six months must include a brief justification for the length of the requested hold/embargo.
J. Creating an Open Researcher and Contributor ID (ORCID) at the time of submission of electronic documents to ProQuest:

At the time of submission to ProQuest, authors now have the opportunity to create an ORCID that provides researchers with a unique identifier for linking their research outputs and activities. An ORCID:

- Improves recognition of research contributions
- Reduces form-filling (enter data once, re-use it often)
- Works with many institutions, funders, and publishers
- Is a requirement of many journal manuscript submission systems and grant application forms.

To learn more about ORCID go to: https://vimeo.com/237730655

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

I. Residency

MSU requires all doctoral students to complete at least one year of residence on campus after the initial enrolment in the doctoral degree program. One year is defined as two consecutive semesters in which the student successfully completed at least six graduate credits each semester.

II. Fees

Refer to reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms/Text.asp?Section=112#s416 for a detailed list of Michigan resident and non-resident fees.

International students will be required to purchase the MSU health insurance plan unless they already have other equivalent coverage. Please see the above webpage for health insurance premium costs and other miscellaneous costs such as vehicle registration, campus bus service, and dissertation-related expenses.

III. Forms

All forms needed for the doctoral program can be found at the end of this handbook. The forms in the handbook are provided for reference only; students should use the fillable PDF forms document. Forms should be completed, circulated, and signed electronically whenever possible.

IV. At the end of the program

Students should be sure to complete the Checkout Checklist form at the conclusion of their doctoral program. It is especially important that students return all University property (including keys, resources, and equipment) when they are finished with their program.
DEPARTMENTAL POLICIES: ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE

I. Annual review

All graduate students at MSU are entitled to periodic evaluation of their progress through their planned doctoral program and their professional potential. The following steps will be taken to ensure a comprehensive and periodic review of each student’s progress in the doctoral program.

A. Annual progress report

Reviews by the guidance committee and faculty advisor will take place at least once per year, in order to review the student’s progress and plans for the coming year. The faculty advisor and student will jointly complete out the Annual Ph.D. Progress Report Form. This form will then be filed with the doctoral program director and the chair of the department in the doctoral student’s permanent file. Students who wish to appeal this evaluation may do so in writing to the chair of the department. This written response, if any, will also be placed in the student’s file.

B. Review by the doctoral program director or chair

Once a year, the student and the faculty advisor will meet with the doctoral program director or chair of the department to review all aspects of the annual progress report. The student will have the opportunity to discuss with the program director or chair any factors that seem necessary for successful completion of the doctoral program, any issues that may be hindering progress, and any appeal of the faculty advisor/guidance committee’s annual evaluation.

II. Guidelines for ensuring acceptable academic performance

MSU and the CSD department expect doctoral students to excel in their programs of study. A student’s progress in the doctoral program is evaluated based on competency (indicated by grades in courses, research performance, and development of professional skills) and the rate of progress through the doctoral program.

A. Minimum acceptable grade

Doctoral students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 in their degree program. Note that this minimum standard alone is not a sufficient indicator of satisfactory progress.

B. Outcomes

A student who receives a grade of less than 3.0 must repeat the course with the approval of the guidance committee and the Associate Dean of Graduate Studies of the College. A grade below 3.0 in more than two courses taken for graduate credit will result in an automatic dismissal from the college. When a course for which the grade is less than 3.0 is subsequently repeated, the initial grade will still count toward the dismissal criterion. A graduate student who is automatically dismissed is required to wait a minimum of one academic year before being eligible to re-apply for admissions to a graduate program in the College of Communication Arts and Sciences. After one year, the student may be re-admitted, contingent upon re-taking and earning a grade of 3.0 or higher in one of the three courses in which a grade below 3.0 was earned. The course to be re-taken may be specified by the Department.
Doctoral students will be informed in writing by the guidance committee and the faculty advisor when their academic progress is unsatisfactory. (See GSRR 2.4.) A copy of this notice will be placed in the student’s permanent file.

C. Access to student records

Each doctoral student’s academic records will be maintained in the CSD office, keeping in mind the student’s right to privacy and access as guaranteed by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA). Doctoral students have the right to inspect any of their own educational records (except those that have been waived by the student) such as transcripts, student disciplinary records, and records regarding academic performance. (See GSRR 3.2.3).

INTEGRITY AND SAFETY IN RESEARCH AND CREATIVE ACTIVITIES

I. Awareness of professional and academic standards

Students will receive several documents related to research integrity, including the Guidelines for Integrity in Research and Creative Activities (grad.msu.edu/sites/default/files/content/researchintegrity/guidelines.pdf). Students must be well-versed in the specific codes of professional and academic standards described in these and other documents.

II. Research involving human or vertebrate animal subjects

All research protocols involving human or vertebrate animal subjects must be approved prior to implementation.

- Information about the protection of human subjects can be found at: hrpp.msu.edu/.
- Information about the protection of animal subjects can be found at: animalcare.msu.edu/.

III. Misconduct

Federal and MSU policies define misconduct as encompassing the following:

- **Fabrication**: Any action that involves making up data and recording/reporting them
- **Falsification**: Any action that involves manipulating research materials, equipment, or processes, or changing or omitting data such that the research is not accurately represented in the record.
- **Plagiarism**: Any action that involves assuming another person’s ideas, processes, results, or words without giving appropriate credit.
- **Non-compliance** with government regulations pertaining to research
- **Retaliation** against whistle blowers

IV. Disciplinary procedures

Students found to have engaged in misconduct may be dismissed from the doctoral program.

- The student will be informed of this decision in writing in a timely manner.
- All information regarding the incident that led to the decision of dismissal will be confidential between the student and faculty/administrators with responsibility for the student.
- This information will be released only with written permission of the student, unless a grievance procedure (See below) is initiated by the student. In that case, the information will be released to the grievance committee.
STUDENT CONDUCT AND CONFLICT RESOLUTION

Each right of an individual places a reciprocal duty upon others to permit the individual to exercise that right. The student, as a member of the academic community, has both rights and duties. Within this community, the student’s most essential right is the right to learn. The University has a duty to provide for the student those privileges, opportunities, and protections which best promote the learning process in all its aspects. The student also has duties to other members of the academic community, the most important of which is to refrain from interference with the rights of others that are equally essential to the purposes and processes of the University.

The Michigan State University Student Rights and Responsibilities (SRR) and the Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities (GSRR) documents establish the rights and responsibilities of MSU students and prescribe procedures to resolve allegations of violations of those rights through formal grievance hearings. All doctoral students should become familiar with these rights and responsibilities. The documents can be found as follows:

- Student Rights and Responsibilities: ombud.msu.edu/student-rights.html
- Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities: grad.msu.edu/gsrr

In accordance with the SRR and the GSRR, the CSD Program shall, as needed, establish a Hearing Board for academic grievance hearings involving graduate students who allege violations of academic rights or seek to contest an allegation of academic misconduct (academic dishonesty, violations of professional standards or falsifying admission and academic records). The Hearing Board shall follow all procedures outlined in the GSRR document to ensure consistent and appropriate consideration of academic grievances and complaints.

V. Office of the University Ombudsperson

Conflicts, disagreements, and issues sometimes arise during the course of a graduate program. If students find themselves in this situation and have exhausted the internal resources for resolving the issue, they may contact the Office of the University Ombudsperson.

The Office of the University Ombudsperson provides assistance to students, faculty, and staff in resolving University-related concerns. Such concerns may include student-faculty conflicts, communication problems, concerns about the university climate, and questions about what options are available for handling a problem according to Michigan State University policy. The University Ombudsperson also provides information about available resources, as well as student/faculty rights and responsibilities. The office operates as a confidential, independent, and neutral resource. It does not provide notice to the University; that is, it does not speak or hear for the University.

The Ombudsperson may be contacted at any point when a confidential conversation or source of information may be needed. The Ombudsperson will listen to students’ concerns, give them information about university policies, help them evaluate the situation, and assist in making plans to resolve the conflict.

Office of the University Ombudsperson
129 N. Kedzie Hall
(517) 353-8830
ombud@msu.edu / ombud.msu.edu
WORK-RELATED POLICIES

Doctoral students may be awarded graduate assistantships which may take the form of research assistantships or teaching assistantships. The CSD department follows the policies of MSU, the Graduate School and, where applicable, the collective bargaining agreement between MSU and the Graduate Employees Union (GEU). The collective bargaining agreement can be found at: hr.msu.edu/contracts/documents/GEU2015-2019.pdf.

Graduate assistants whose primary responsibility is research should refer to the Graduate School website (grad.msu.edu/assistantships/) for additional information about wages, benefits, and other terms and conditions of employment.

Students who are employed by the department or University in any capacity must follow the requirements and procedures described in the contract and agreements described above. Students should recognize that, as employees, they are accountable to the University. Therefore, they must follow all policies, including submitting travel pre-authorization forms and informing their advisors and the department about travel plans and other periods of time where they will be away from their jobs.

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
FOR INTERNATIONAL DOCTORAL STUDENTS

International students should ensure that they meet all of the requirements and follow all guidelines found on the website of the Office for International Students and Scholars (oiss.isp.msu.edu). Specific requirements that must be considered are as follows:

I. English language requirements for teaching assistantships

MSU candidates for TA appointments who were required to demonstrate English proficiency as a condition for regular admission to Michigan State University must also demonstrate that they meet a minimum standard of proficiency in spoken English before they can be assigned teaching work that involves oral communication with undergraduate students.

International teaching assistants (ITAs) may meet this requirement in one of the following ways:

- Presenting a TOEFL iBT speaking section score of 27 or higher.
- Receiving a score of 50 or higher on the MSU Speaking Test
- Taking AAE 451 or AAE 452 (ITA language support courses) and receiving a score of 50 or higher on the ITA Oral Interaction Test (ITAOI).

Those ITAs who received a waiver of the TOEFL or of other accepted tests of English proficiency for admission, must also meet the requirement of proficiency in spoken English before they are assigned to teaching work that involves oral communication with undergraduate students. To meet this requirement, those ITAs may use any of three options listed above. Individual exceptions from these requirements (on a case-by-case basis in rare circumstances) will be considered by the Graduate School in consultation with the ELC upon the request of the department and with the endorsement of the Associate Dean of the College.
II. Accident and health insurance

International students are required to have health and accident insurance. Students are required to purchase the MSU Student Accident and Health Insurance Plan unless they have evidence of alternative insurance equal in benefits and provisions to the Michigan State University plan. Fees for the student's insurance are included with the bill for tuition and fees during registration. Please see the website for MSU Human Resources (hr.msu.edu/students.html) for detailed information regarding student employment benefits.

UNIVERSITY RESOURCES

Following is a list of university resources available to graduate students. In all cases, University policies override all inconsistent provisions that may exist in this handbook.

I. General University resources
   • Michigan State University: www.msu.edu
   • Graduate School: grad.msu.edu
   • Office of the Registrar: reg.msu.edu
   • Academic Programs: reg.msu.edu/AcademicPrograms
   • Libraries: lib.msu.edu
   • Human Resources: hr.msu.edu/students.html
   • Travel information: ctri.msu.edu/cotri and travelclinic.msu.edu
   • Resources Center for Persons with Disabilities: rcpd.msu.edu
   • Cmte. on Institutional Cooperation (CIC): research.msu.edu/tag/committee-on-institutional-cooperation
   • Student-Parent Resource Center: studentparents.msu.edu
   • Graduate Student Health and Wellness: grad.msu.edu/wellness
   • Office for International Students and Scholars: oiss.isp.msu.edu
   • Guidelines for Graduate Student Advising and Mentoring Relationships and Guidelines for Integrity in Research and Creative Activities: grad.msu.edu/sites/default/files/content/researchintegrity/guidelines.pdf
   • Policy on Relationship Violence and Sexual Misconduct: hr.msu.edu/policies-procedures/university-wide/RVSM_policy.html
   • Anti-Discrimination Policy: hr.msu.edu/policies-procedures/university-wide/ADP_policy.html

II. Human subjects, animal care, research ethics, environmental safety, student safety
   • Human Research Protection Program (HRPP): hrpp.msu.edu
   • Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC): animalcare.msu.edu
   • Research and Scholarly Integrity: grad.msu.edu/researchintegrity
   • Guidelines on Authorship: yprgs.msu.edu/michigan-state-university-guidelines-authorship
   • Institutional Data Policy: tech.msu.edu/about/guidelines-policies/msu-institutional-data-policy/
   • Environmental Health and Safety: esh.msu.edu
   • Student Affairs & Services: studentaffairs.msu.edu/health-wellness-safety/index.html

III. Student funding opportunities
   • Graduate School: grad.msu.edu/funding/
   • Office of Financial Aid: finaid.msu.edu/sships.asp
IV. Students rights and responsibilities (including work-related policies related to employment, jury duty, grievance policy, etc.)
   • Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities: grad.msu.edu/gsrr
   • CSD Department Bylaws: http://comartsci.msu.edu/sites/default/files/documents/resources/bylaws-csd.pdf

V. Technology and computing resources
   • Center for Statistical Training and Consulting: cstat.msu.edu
   • MSU Information Technology: tech.msu.edu

VI. Teaching resources
   • Learning Design and Teaching: tech.msu.edu/teaching/
   • Classroom Technology: tech.msu.edu/teaching/computer-labs-classrooms/type-classroom/
   • Center for Academic and Future Faculty Excellence: caffe.grd.msu.edu
FORMS

NOTE: The forms are included in the handbook as examples only. Students should use the fillable PDF form file.

- Request for the Appointment of the Guidance Committee for the Ph.D. degree
- Request for Changes in the Doctoral Degree Program
- Report of the Initial PhD Guidance Committee Meeting – Page 1
- Report of the Initial PhD Guidance Committee Meeting – Page 2
- Annual Progress Report – Page 1
- Annual Progress Report – Page 2
- Annual Progress Report – Page 3
- Request for Written Portion of the Comprehensive Examination
- Request for Oral Portion of the Comprehensive Examination
- Record of Comprehensive Examination
- Request for the Appointment of the Doctoral Dissertation Committee
- Request for Dissertation Prospectus Meeting
- Acceptance of Dissertation Prospectus
- Request for Oral Dissertation Defense
- Results of the Written Dissertation Paper and Oral Dissertation Defense
- Outcomes of the Dissertation
- Checkout Checklist
Michigan State University  
College of Communication Arts and Sciences  
Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders  

Request for the Appointment of the Doctoral Guidance Committee

Student: _______________________________ Date: _______________________________

The following faculty members have agreed to serve on the student’s Ph.D. Guidance Committee:

**MSU CSD Department Faculty (name)** – at least two required; indicate advisor/chair

________________________________  ________________________________________  __________________________

________________________________  ________________________________________  __________________________

________________________________  ________________________________________  __________________________

________________________________  ________________________________________  __________________________

MSU Faculty from Outside the Department (name, department) – at least one required

________________________________  ________________________________________  __________________________

________________________________  ________________________________________  __________________________

**Faculty from Outside MSU (name, university, and department)**
(Must receive prior approval. See grad.msu.edu/non-regular-faculty-committees for information.)

________________________________  ________________________________________  __________________________

________________________________  ________________________________________  __________________________

Student (name, signature, date)  Guidance Committee Chair (name, signature, date)

________________________________  ________________________________________

________________________________  ________________________________________

PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)  Department Chairperson (name, signature, date)

________________________________  ________________________________________

________________________________  ________________________________________

Original: CAS Academic and Student Affairs
Copies: Student, Guidance Committee Chairperson, PhD Program Director, CSD Student File
Michigan State University
College of Communication Arts and Sciences
Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Request for Changes in the Doctoral Degree Program

Student: ______________________ Date: ______________________________

The following changes in the student’s doctoral program are requested:

___ Change in chairperson or committee members
___ Change in coursework
___ Request for exceptions / waiver from program requirements

Explanation:

_______________________________________________________________
Student (name, signature, date)                                   Guidance Committee Chair (name, signature, date)
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________
PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)                     Department Chairperson (name, signature, date)
_______________________________________________________________
_______________________________________________________________

Original: CAS Academic and Student Affairs
Copies: Student, Guidance Committee Chairperson, PhD Program Director, CSD Student File
Report of the Initial PhD Guidance Committee Meeting – Page 1

Student: _______________________________  Advisor: _______________________________
Starting Semester: ______________________  Date of Meeting: ________________________

Planned Coursework

Attach page 2 indicating semester, department, number, name, and credits for all planned courses

Planned pre-dissertation project date ____________________________________________________
   Tentative pre-dissertation topic: ____________________________________________________

Planned teaching experience date and course _____________________________________________

Planned grant-writing experience date and course _________________________________________

Planned lab rotation date(s) and location(s) ______________________________________________

Planned comprehensive examination date ________________________________________________

Planned dissertation prospectus date ____________________________________________________

Planned dissertation oral defense date: _________________________________________________
   Tentative dissertation topic: _______________________________________________________

Student (name, signature, date)  Guidance Committee Chair (name, signature, date)
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)  Department Chairperson (name, signature, date)
________________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________________

Original: CAS Academic and Student Affairs
Copies: Student, Guidance Committee Chairperson, PhD Program Director, CSD Student File
### Graduate-Level Courses (18 credits, including 9 credits of clinically focused CSD courses)
(For students without a prior Master’s Degree only. If prior Master’s Degree in any field, skip this section.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course Name/Number</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### CSD Clinical Courses (6 to 9 credits) (For students with a Master’s degree from a field other than CSD only.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course Name/Number</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### CSD Core Courses (6 to 9 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course Name/Number</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Methods and Skills Courses (12 to 15 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course Name/Number</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CSD Fundamentals in Education</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CSD Fundamentals in Research</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>CSD Fundamentals in Professional Issues</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Specialized Study Courses (18 to 24 credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course Name/Number</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

### Dissertation Credits (24 to 36 credits) (indicate term, number of credits)

________________________________________________________________________
________________________________________________________________________
Michigan State University
College of Communication Arts and Sciences
Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Annual Progress Report – Page 1
(Portion to be completed by student)

Student: _______________________________ Date: _______________________________

Date of Entrance into the program:

If admitted under provisional status, date provisional status was removed:

Expected program completion date:

Planned Coursework

Attach page 2 indicating semester, department, number, name, and credits for all planned courses
Highlight changes or updates from the initial meeting or prior annual report.

Planned pre-dissertation project date _______________________________________
Tentative/confirmed pre-dissertation topic: _______________________________________

Planned/Completed teaching experience date and course ____________________________

Planned/Completed grant-writing experience date and course _________________________

Planned/Completed lab rotation date(s) and location(s) _______________________________

Planned/Completed comprehensive examination date _______________________________

Planned/Completed dissertation prospectus date _________________________________

Planned dissertation oral defense date: _______________________________________
Dissertation topic: _____________________________________________________________

Current GPA: ________________________ Number of credits below 3.0 ____________

Attach the following information, reflecting updates or changes since the last annual progress report or initial guidance committee meeting:

• Statement of professional goals and goals for the next academic year
• Papers published or submitted since the last annual progress review or initial review
• Presentations since the last annual progress review or initial review
• Participation on funded grants
• Participation in undergraduate or graduate education (e.g., courses taught, mentoring)

Also, briefly summarize your progress toward achieving your goals during the past year. If you feel that you are not making progress, explain why. Describe any perceived department/school obstacles that hinder your progress.
Graduate-Level Courses (18 credits, including 9 credits of clinically focused CSD courses)  
(For students without a prior Master’s Degree only. If prior Master’s Degree in any field, skip this section.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course Name/Number</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>

CSD Clinical Courses (6 to 9 credits) (For students with a Master’s degree from a field other than CSD only.)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course Name/Number</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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</table>

CSD Core Courses (6 to 9 credits)

<table>
<thead>
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</table>

Methods and Skills Courses (12 to 15 credits)

<table>
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Specialized Study Courses (18 to 24 credits)

<table>
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</thead>
</table>

Dissertation Credits (24 to 36 credits) (indicate term, number of credits)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Course Name/Number</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Has the student made acceptable progress during the evaluation period? Explain.

Please comment on the student’s overall academic performance.

Student (name, signature, date)  Guidance Committee Chair (name, signature, date)
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)  Department Chairperson (name, signature, date)
_________________________________________________________
_________________________________________________________

Original:  CAS Academic and Student Affairs
Copies:  Student, Guidance Committee Chairperson, PhD Program Director, CSD Student File
Michigan State University
College of Communication Arts and Sciences
Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Request for Written Portion of the Comprehensive Examination

Student: ____________________________  Date: ____________________________

As the student’s advisor, I affirm that the student has completed nearly all required course work and the pre-dissertation project. I therefore recommend that the student take the comprehensive examination.

Date when student will be given questions ________________________________________

Date when student will return answers ___________________________________________

Date when guidance committee will provide feedback ______________________________

Tentative date of oral examination ______________________________________________

Comprehensive Examination Questions:

Guidance Committee Chair (name, signature, date)  PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)

____________________________________________________________________________

Original:  CSD Student Files
Copies:  Guidance Committee Chair, PhD Program Director
Michigan State University
College of Communication Arts and Sciences
Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Request for Oral Portion of the Comprehensive Examination

Student: ___________________________  Date: ___________________________

As the student’s advisor, I affirm that at least 75% of the guidance committee have voted that the student has provided satisfactory answers to the written portion of the comprehensive examination and is ready to proceed to the oral examination.

**Date and Time of Oral Examination:** ______________________________________

**Will Oral Examination Include a Portion that is Open to CSD Students and Faculty?**

___ Yes  ___ No

**Does a room need to be scheduled for the oral examination?**

___ Yes  ___ No

**Guidance Committee Chair (name, signature, date)**
_________________________________________________

**PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)**
_________________________________________________

_________________________________________________

The completed/signed form should be submitted to the CSD Department Office.

Original:  CSD Student Files
Copies:  Guidance Committee Chair, PhD Program Director
Michigan State University
College of Communication Arts and Sciences
Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Record of Comprehensive Examination

Student: __________________________ Date: __________________________

The student’s advisor and guidance committee provide the following feedback about the student’s comprehensive examination:

_____ The student has PASSED the comprehensive examination
(based on a positive vote of at least 75% of the guidance committee)

_____ The student has NOT PASSED the comprehensive examination

Date when student received questions __________________________________________

Date when student returned answers __________________________________________

Date when guidance committee provided feedback __________________________________

Date of oral examination ______________________________________________________

Guidance Committee (name, department)
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________

Guidance Committee Chair (name, signature, date)  PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)
____________________________________________________________________________  ______________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________  ______________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________  ______________________________________________________________________
____________________________________________________________________________  ______________________________________________________________________

Original:  CAS Academic and Student Affairs
Copies:  Student, Guidance Committee Chairperson, PhD Program Director, CSD Student File
Michigan State University  
College of Communication Arts and Sciences  
Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Request for the Appointment of the Doctoral Dissertation Committee

Student: ____________________________ Date: ____________________________

The following faculty members have agreed to serve on the student’s Doctoral Dissertation Committee:

**MSU CSD Department Faculty (name) – at least two required; indicate advisor/chair**

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MSU Faculty from Outside the Department (name, department) – at least one required

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**Faculty from Outside MSU (name, university, and department)**  
(Must receive prior approval. See [grad.msu.edu/non-regular-faculty-committees](http://grad.msu.edu/non-regular-faculty-committees) for information.)

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**Student (name, signature, date)**

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**PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)**

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**Dissertation Committee Chair (name, signature, date)**

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**Department Chairperson (name, signature, date)**

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Original: CAS Academic and Student Affairs

Copies: Student, Guidance/Dissertation Committee Chairperson, PhD Program Director, CSD Student File
 Michigan State University  
College of Communication Arts and Sciences  
Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Request for Dissertation Prospectus Meeting  
(to be submitted to the CSD Department Office)

Student: ___________________________  Date: ___________________________

The student’s advisor and dissertation committee affirm that the student is ready to schedule the dissertation prospectus meeting (based on a positive vote of at least 75% of the members of the dissertation committee).

Date and Time of Prospectus Meeting: ______________________________________

Title of Doctoral Dissertation: ____________________________________________

Dissertation Committee Members (name, department)

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Does a room need to be scheduled for the prospectus meeting?  ___ Yes  ___ No

Dissertation Committee Chair (name, signature, date)  PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)

________________________________________________________________________

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Original:  CSD Student Files
Copies:  Guidance/Dissertation Committee Chairperson, PhD Program Director
Acceptance of Dissertation Prospectus

Student: _______________________________ Date: _______________________________

The student’s advisor and dissertation committee accept the dissertation prospectus (based on a positive vote of at least 75% of the members of the committee), and the student may proceed with the study.

Title of Doctoral Dissertation: ____________________________________________

Tentative Date of Dissertation Defense: ______________________________________

Dissertation Committee Members (name, department, signature)

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Student (name, signature, date) PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)

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Dissertation Committee Chair (name, signature, date) Department Chairperson (name, signature, date)

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Original: CAS Academic and Student Affairs

Copies: Student, Guidance/Dissertation Committee Chairperson, PhD Program Director, CSD Student File
Michigan State University  
College of Communication Arts and Sciences  
Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Request for Oral Dissertation Defense  
(to be submitted to the CSD Department Office)

Student: ____________________________  Date: ____________________________

As the student’s advisor, I affirm that at least 75% of the dissertation committee have voted that the student is ready to schedule the oral dissertation defense.

Date and Time of Oral Dissertation Defense: ____________________________

Title of Doctoral Dissertation: ____________________________

Dissertation Committee Members (name, department)

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Does a room need to be scheduled for the oral examination?  Yes  No

Student (name, signature, date)  PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)

________________________________  __________________________________

________________________________  __________________________________

Dissertation Committee Chair (name, signature, date)  Department Chairperson (name, signature, date)

________________________________  __________________________________

________________________________  __________________________________

Original: CSD Student Files
Copies: Guidance/Dissertation Committee Chairperson, PhD Program Director
Results of the Written Dissertation Paper and Oral Dissertation Defense
(to be completed at the conclusion of the oral dissertation defense)

Student: ___________________________ Date: ___________________________

Results of the Written Dissertation Paper

____ The written dissertation document is accepted in its present form. No further revision is required.

____ The written dissertation document is accepted pending minor revisions to be reviewed by the dissertation committee chair only. No further review from the committee is required.

____ The written dissertation document is not accepted. The student must revise the document based on feedback from the committee, then submit the revisions to the committee for further review.

Results of the Oral Dissertation Defense

____ The oral dissertation defense is accepted.

____ The oral dissertation defense is not accepted. The student must repeat the oral examination.

Dissertation Committee Members (name, department, signature, date)

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Dissertation Committee Chair (name, signature, date) PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)

________________________________________________________________________

________________________________________________________________________

Original: CSD Student File

Copies: Guidance/Dissertation Committee Chairperson, PhD Program Director
Michigan State University
College of Communication Arts and Sciences
Department of Communicative Sciences and Disorders

Outcomes of the Dissertation
(to be submitted by the doctoral advisor to the CAS Academic and Student Affairs office only after the final completion of the dissertation)

Student: ___________________________  Date: ___________________________

_____ The student’s advisor and dissertation committee affirm (based on a positive vote of at least 75% of the dissertation committee) that the student has PASSED the dissertation. The date of the oral defense can be entered into MSU GradPlan.

_____ The student’s advisor and dissertation committee affirm that the student has NOT PASSED the dissertation. The student will not be continuing in the program.

Date and Time of Oral Dissertation Defense: ____________________________________________

Title of Doctoral Dissertation: ______________________________________________________

Dissertation Committee Chair (name, signature, date)
__________________________
__________________________
__________________________

PhD Program Director (name, signature, date)  CSD Department Chair (name, signature, date)
__________________________  ______________________
__________________________  ______________________
__________________________  ______________________

Original: CAS Academic and Student Affairs
Copies: Guidance/Dissertation Committee Chairperson, PhD Program Director, CSD Student File
Checkout Checklist

To the student: Please ensure that each of the following steps are taken, then sign the form and return it your faculty advisor.

**If the following checkout procedures are not completed, graduation may be delayed.**

Student: ________________________________

- _____ Return any Department keys in your possession to the Department Administrative Assistant.
- _____ Return any Departmental books, materials, resources, or equipment (including computer equipment) in your possession to the Student Affairs Secretary. (Any materials purchased with University funds are the property of the University and must remain at the University.)
- _____ Provide your contact information at the bottom of this page.
- _____ Other: _______________________________________________________

Name

Forwarding Address and Phone

Place of Employment and Title

Employer’s Address

Signature ___________________________________ Date _______________________

Original: CSD Student File

Copies: Guidance/Dissertation Committee Chairperson, PhD Program Director