

PES Dissertation Procedures for Construction Management students

The following procedure applies to construction management student's pursuing a PES:

1. With the consent and advice of the major professor, the student arrives at a tentative Dissertation topic.
2. In consultation with the major professor the student selects tentative committee members.
3. The student schedules a time for the Qualifier exam. The exam will be used as a tool to identify the student's weak areas and design his course work (Plan of study). Plan of study is due by the end of the student's first semester.
4. Qualifier meeting is held. The tentative committee reviews the student's program of study (POS) and recommends courses to cover potential gaps based on the research topic.
5. The major professor mentors the student through the proposal preparation and dissertation research. The student is encouraged to consult committee members for feedback and guidance throughout the research, understanding that each committee member will vote to pass or fail the student at the Qualifier, General exam and defense.
6. The student prepares a proposal in close collaboration with the major professor, outlining the proposed work.
7. After the major professor reviews and approves the proposal, the student submits copies to the committee members at least two week prior to the presentation date.
8. The student schedules a time for their comprehensive exam and proposal presentation.
9. Proposal meeting is held. The committee can again review the student's program of study (POS) and, if needed, recommends courses to cover potential gaps based on the research topic.
10. The major professor guides and edits the dissertation research based on the proposal meeting outcome. The student prepares a final dissertation document.
11. Once the major advisor approved the final dissertation document, the student schedules the final exam with the committee and then submits the Request for Final Exam to the Graduate School. Students should follow the semester deadline established by the Graduate School.
12. Copies of the dissertation document are submitted to the committee members at least two weeks prior to the defense date.
13. Dissertation defense meeting is held. After the student presents and answers committee's questions, the student and any guests are excused. The committee deliberates and decides whether the student passed or failed the dissertation defense. The committee completes the Report of Examining Committee form (a.k.a. signature cards) and the major professor will submit signed form to the Graduate School within a week of the final exam.
14. After the defense, the various comments are addressed in a final revision that is submitted to the major advisor and the committee for final approval. Students should anticipate that this draft/review/revise/review cycle can be time consuming. Once the final document is approved, the student needs to submit a final PDF version to Graduate Studies to be archived.

The student should be aware that the Graduate School imposes certain deadlines for submitting oral examination results and dissertation and should consult the current graduate school calendar for dates. Should the student fail to meet all of the above deadlines, he/she will not graduate in that semester and must enroll in the University in the following semester. If the research is not complete, the student is required to register for Engr 9000. If the research is complete (including the submission of dissertation to the Graduate School), the student may register for "Degree Only."

Dissertation Document Format

PESCM students have the option of writing a Traditional Dissertation or a Journal Article Style Dissertation. The selection will be done based on the students' interests and needs in consultation with major advisor.

The Journal Article Style allows the students to author manuscripts designed for journal publication instead of a single manuscript. The articles in the Journal Article style need to exhibit student's research, and must be centered around a common research theme which enables the documents to be combined together to create a single cohesive manuscript. A minimum of two journal articles, are required for CM students pursuing a PES. The major components of the manuscript entailed an Introduction, Literature Review, Articles (at least two), Conclusions, and Reference. The manuscript created must fulfill the requirements of both the committee and the Graduate School in completing the dissertation graduation requirement.

The major components of the Traditional dissertation are an Introduction, Literature Review, Methodology, Results, Conclusions, and References. Students are also required to prepare a draft journal manuscript with their dissertation.