

SM 11/9/67

*Grad Studies  
Sho.*

Paper S-38

To: Senate

From: Registrar

31 August, 1967

Subject: Standards on the Preparation of Thesis  
for the Ph.D. degree

The attached paper has been approved by the Faculties of Education and Science, and by the Senate Committee on Graduate Studies.

The Faculty of Arts took exception to the requirement of a compulsory oral examination. The Senate Committee on Graduate Studies agreed that an oral examination was a necessary University requirement, but it would hear requests for the waiving of oral examinations in special cases.

D. P. Robertson  
Registrar

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SM 11/19/67

Grad. Studies  
S.D.

S-38

Memorandum issued for the Guidance of Supervisors and Candidates:

Standards on the Preparation of Thesis for the Degree of Ph.D.

1. A candidate submitting a thesis for the degree of Ph.D must show in his thesis both originality of mind and critical judgment in a particular subject, and in addition must demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the general field of scholarship to which that particular subject belongs. All these aspects of his work will be examined both through the thesis itself, and in the oral examination.

2. The substance of the thesis must involve an amount of work that may be reasonably expected of a candidate who has satisfied the University's residence requirements (see calendar) bearing in mind the amount of course work required in fulfilling the requirements for the degree of Ph.D. The quantity of work in a thesis will obviously vary from discipline to discipline; the quality sought will always be high.

3. The thesis must make a distinct addition to knowledge. Its originality may consist in discovering new facts, or in the critical examination of existing facts or ideas, or in devising and conducting investigations into ideas supplied by others. The work described in the thesis should be worthy of publication either in its submitted form, or else in a suitably modified form as required by the various disciplines.

4. The written presentation of the thesis must be considered satisfactory by the Examining Committee. The subject matter must be clearly and precisely expressed, the arguments logical and intelligible, and the language that is most appropriate to the discipline involved. The thesis must show clearly that the candidate has ideas, and that he has the ability to express them in the appropriate words.

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5. The oral examination before the Examining Committee is regarded as an essential and important part of the requirements leading to the degree of Ph.D. This examination will be in addition to any Departmental regulations requiring, for example, the candidate to deliver a seminar to the appropriate body. The oral examination by the Committee will include questions designed to ensure that the thesis is indeed the result of the candidate's own research, and will also thoroughly test the candidate's understanding of the background of the field of study within which his own research falls. The candidate will be required to demonstrate his acquaintance with the general literature of his field, and a knowledge of the relationship of his own work to any wider field of which it is a part. The candidate will be expected to show his understanding of the extent to which his own work advances, modifies or in any other way affects the wider field of scholarship in his discipline.

6. The Examining Committee may if they wish require the candidate to submit himself to a written examination in addition to the oral. This may arise for example if the candidate is unable for linguistic or psychological reasons to acquit himself in a satisfactory manner at the oral examination.

7. If the situation arises that the candidate has presented an adequate thesis, but has not shown in the oral examination that he possesses the necessary knowledge in the general field of scholarship to which his thesis belongs, the examiners may recommend that he should re-present the thesis and submit himself for a second oral examination after a further period of directed study.