

DEFINING OUTCOMES FOR THESIS EXAM

1. Acceptable

The thesis is acceptable in its present form or requires a few minor typographical and/or minor editorial corrections (limited to minor grammatical or spelling errors, formatting problems, minor redundancies or omissions (e.g., transitional paragraphs, notes, etc.))

2. Acceptable with minor change

The thesis requires minor changes in substance or major editorial changes. This may include corrections of numerous grammatical or spelling errors, moderate editorial changes, clarification of concepts or methodology, and/or the need for an additional section or sections.

Required changes do not change the basic tenets of the research or its findings and do not call for alteration to the basic structure of the thesis.

Normally, such changes should be completed within 4 weeks of the date of the exam.

3. Acceptable with major change

The thesis requires change of a substantive nature which calls for re-writing of parts of the thesis. This might include: rewriting a chapter, reinterpretation of data, corrections to calculations, or the inclusion of additional data or research in order to attain acceptable standards of coherence and integrity in argument and presentation.

The committee may also select this category if the members determine that the exam itself, either separate from or in conjunction with the written thesis, is unsatisfactory.

The revised thesis must be re-submitted for examination within 6 months of the original exam. A second examination is required. The re-examination will follow the same procedures as the initial submission and the same examining committee will serve.

4. Unacceptable

The thesis is unacceptable to the discipline in most or all of the following areas: topic quality and originality, research quality and originality, writing style and quality and quality of oral defence. The thesis examination makes it clear that the student is incapable of making the substantive revisions necessary to bring the work to an acceptable level. The student is dismissed from the program on academic grounds.