Policy Number: 102

Subject/Title: Doctoral Committee Structure

Effective Date: Fall 2011

Policy Statement: Doctoral committees will be structured according to the following:

Before Preliminary Examination Committee
* Faculty Advisor (faculty member from within student’s discipline)

Post Preliminary Examination Committee
* Faculty Advisor (serves as Chair)
* 2\textsuperscript{nd} member (Minor discipline)
* 3\textsuperscript{rd} member (second Minor/Breadth discipline)
  4\textsuperscript{th} member – \textit{not required}
  This may be an Optional Member or Dissertation Supervisor if not filled by Faculty Advisor

Post Preliminary Examination Committee - DrPH students who matriculated Fall 2018 or later
* Faculty Advisor (serves as Chair)
* 2\textsuperscript{nd} member (Minor discipline)
* 3\textsuperscript{rd} member – \textit{required}
  This may be an Optional Member or Dissertation Supervisor if not filled by Faculty Advisor
* 4\textsuperscript{th} member – \textit{not required}
  This may be an Optional Member

Notes:
- The Dissertation Committee must include at least three (3) UTHealth School of Public Health (SPH) faculty members.
- *UTHealth School of Public Health Faculty = an appointed assistant, associate or full professor; with a primary appointment at the school
- Faculty Advisor = Chair of committee
- Any committee member may serve as the Dissertation Supervisor
- The Faculty Advisor, whom is the Chair, can serve as the Dissertation Supervisor if they fulfill the qualifications for both positions
- At least one (1) committee member should be outside of the major discipline
- \textbf{Minor disciplines}: Biostatistics, Epidemiology, Environmental Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, Health Economics, Health Services Research, Health Policy, Healthcare Management, Community Health Practice
- Minor = nine (9) credit hours and at least three (3) courses
- Minor and second Minor/Breadth must represent different disciplines
- DrPH students who matriculated Fall 2018 or later are required to complete one minor only as a breadth area and coursework is built into the curriculum, thus do not need a breadth committee member
- Students who have elected a certificate requiring committee representation must include a UTHealth SPH faculty member representing the certificate on their committee if not already included
Reason for Policy: The proposed committee structure was developed to facilitate faculty mentoring of students based on major, certificate (if applicable), degree program and culminating experience option.

Definitions: N/A

Scope and Audience: Students matriculating Fall 2011 and onward

Responsibilities and Procedures: Outlined above; Primary advisor assigned upon admission. Students elect to add committee members based on dissertation project.

Related Policies, Forms and Information: Doctoral Committee Structure Forms (Proposal and Dissertation) located on the Student Forms webpage. Available minors are associated with, and organized by, matriculation term and located on the Minors and Breadths tab on the Degree Programs webpage.

History: Developed and approved in Fall 2010 to coincide with change in qualifying examination to preliminary examination and proposal and dissertation defense(s).

    Academic Council Approved: October 19, 2010
    Executive Council Approved: October 21, 2010

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