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)

Additional members not required prior to preliminary exam, but may be added.
* 2nd member (Minor discipline)
* 3rd member (second Minor/Breadth discipline) - must represent different disciplines
* 4th member (Optional)

Post Preliminary Examination Committee
* Faculty Advisor (major discipline required, also serves as Chair)
* 2nd member (Minor discipline)
* 3rd member (second Minor/Breadth discipline) - must represent different disciplines
* 4th member (Optional, may be Dissertation Supervisor)

Notes:
- *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
- **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
- 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
- Any committee member may serve as the Dissertation Supervisor
- At least one (1) committee member should be outside of the major discipline
- 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

**Responsible Office/Contact Information:** Office of Academic Affairs and Student Services  
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