

PhD Seminar

General Format:

PhD students must present a 40 minute seminar on thesis work, followed by a 15-20 minute question period. The seminar is open to all the members of the Department of Anatomy and Cell Biology. All faculty, cross-appointed academic staff, post-docs and students are expected to attend.

When?

The seminar should take place at least six months before submission of their thesis.

Where?

All students (including those who work in a laboratory off campus) must hold their seminar in the Strathcona Anatomy and Dentistry Building.

Who needs to be present?

- The supervisor(s)
- The mentor
- 4 members of the Graduate Affairs Committee (not including the supervisor and mentor)

If these people are not present, the seminar will be cancelled and will have to be rescheduled, unless there is a special situation and the student has obtained previous permission from the Graduate Program Director.

Who schedules the Seminar?

The Graduate Program Coordinator (GPC) will schedule the seminar on behalf of the student. It is the student's responsibility however, to send the GPC a minimum of 5 different options for dates and times in which both the student and supervisor are available. A doodle poll will then be sent out to the Graduate Affairs Committee, and once a date is set, the GPC will send an email confirming the date and location.

What are the expectations from the student for a Ph.D. Seminar?

The expectations and how these will be considered are described in the Evaluation of Ph.D. seminar sheet.

How will the seminar be evaluated?

After the seminar, the members of the Graduate Affairs Committee will meet to determine whether the student is ready to write his PhD thesis.

Before reaching a decision, the committee may consult with the supervisor(s), the mentor and the additional members of the advisory committee as judged necessarily.

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It is highly recommended that the committee reach a consensus as to whether the candidate passes or fails. In the unlikely event that a consensus is not reached, a decision will be made by a simple majority.

In the case that the student fails the seminar due to lack of research data, sub-standard presentation and/or inability to answer questions, the student will have 3 months to re-do the seminar (or less as recommended by the committee). In the event of a second fail, the student may be required to withdraw from the program.

The committee will provide the student with one of the following recommendations in which they are required to follow:

- 1) Proceed to writing the thesis
- 2) Redo the PhD Seminar and present it to the Graduate Affairs Committee only
- 3) Redo the PhD Seminar and present it to the department
- 4) Withdraw from the program (2nd failure only)