

**Ph.D. PROGRAM – Defense of Thesis Proposal**

(to be signed by thesis committee members upon completion –  
submit to Academic and Student Affairs Office, M103 MacLean)

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ (please print)

Previous College/University: \_\_\_\_\_ Degree/Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Advancement to Candidacy: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of Oral Examination: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Defense of Thesis Proposal: \_\_\_\_\_

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Research Area(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Thesis Title: \_\_\_\_\_

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Action Recommended by Committee:

Thesis Committee Signatures:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Adviser) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print last name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Member) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print last name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Member) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print last name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Outside Member) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print last name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Optional Member) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print last name)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Optional Member) Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
(please print last name)

## From the Thayer School Guide to Courses and Programs—Doctor of Philosophy Program Description

### Defense of Thesis Proposal

The candidate demonstrates mastery of an area of specialization by writing and defending a thesis proposal within the first 18 months of candidacy. A thesis committee, approved by the director of the Ph.D. program, advises the candidate on the proposed thesis research and administers the defense of thesis proposal.

The thesis committee is chaired by the thesis advisor and includes at least 3 other members. Three committee members must be full-time Dartmouth faculty members; of whom two must be from the Thayer School (including the chair) as well as an external member with a faculty equivalent research appointment outside of Dartmouth. The external member may participate in meetings in person or via video conference.

The defense, which is public, centers on a presentation by the student of his or her proposed thesis research. The proposal should explain the scope and importance of the proposed research and plans for its completion, and should be understandable, at least in a general way, by students and faculty not in the subject area. Two (2) weeks in advance of the defense you must submit a written thesis proposal to your committee and a notice of the defense to the registrar for posting and distribution. The Defense of Thesis Proposal Form must be signed by committee members upon completion.