

TEACHERS COLLEGE  
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY  
Office of Doctoral Studies  
Box 172 - 525 West 120<sup>th</sup> Street - New York, NY 10027  
Phone: (212) 678-4050 -Fax: (212) 678-4050

**DEFENSE COMMITTEE MATRIX FOR Ph.D. STUDENTS**

	Member of Candidate's Dissertation Proposal Committee <sup>1</sup>	Member of Candidate's TC Academic Department <sup>3</sup>	Member of GSAS <sup>4</sup>
<b>Defense Moderator</b>		Can be from candidate's department.	X
<b>Dissertation Advisor<sup>2</sup></b>	X	X	X
<b>Third Examiner</b>	X		X
<b>Fourth and Fifth Examiners<sup>5</sup></b>		Can be from candidate's department but <u>not</u> from candidate's program	

X = Must meet the criteria

**NOTES:**

1. The "Dissertation Advisor" and "Third Examiner" are both identified during the dissertation proposal process. Faculty who serve in those roles continue through the oral defense of the dissertation. Candidates with three member proposal committees can have the third member serve in any position, but if not GSAS approved, they cannot serve as the Defense Moderator.
2. Typically the "Dissertation Advisor" is a Teachers College faculty member whose primary appointment is in the candidate's academic department. Under unusual circumstances, a candidate may petition an exception to this requirement. The petition needs the review and approval of the Chair of the candidate's academic department and, with the chair's approval, the Faculty Committee on the Doctoral Degree.
3. At least two (2) committee members must be from the candidate's department (preferably the candidate's program).
4. At least three (3) members: the Defense Moderator, Dissertation Advisor, and Third Examiner, must be GSAS approved faculty. Link to GSAS Approved Faculty: <https://gsas.columbia.edu/student-guide/dissertation/doctoral-dissertation-advisors>.
5. One (1) of the committee members of the oral defense committee must be a faculty member from outside TC (e.g., Columbia, Barnard, NYU, etc.). Sponsor requests for non-TC/CU faculty must be sent via e-mail to ODS with a copy of the member's CV. GSAS requires they must be a faculty member, clinician, or practitioner who holds a position at another university or research institution. Emeritus faculty may not serve on a candidate's committee. All exceptions may be petitioned in writing by the Dissertation Advisor to the Manager of the Office of Doctoral Studies who will bring it to the Dean of GSAS for review.