

THESIS SEMINAR

21.9 A Candidate must give a public seminar, on a topic related to his/her area of research, at least one (1) month before the planned submission date of the thesis for an MS program and three (3) months before the said date for a PhD program. In the seminar, the Candidate may give an overview of major findings of the thesis.

21.10 The Advisory Committee shall attend the seminar and then meet to award a "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory" grade to the Candidate. The Advisory Committee shall submit the Seminar Report to the Dean of the Faculty and the Controller of Examinations. If the seminar is assessed "Unsatisfactory", an MS Candidate shall be required to give the seminar again within three (3) weeks of the previous seminar, and a PhD Candidate within three (3) months.

THESIS REQUIREMENTS

21.11 An MS/PhD Candidate shall be responsible to complete all degree requirements and clear all dues prior to the submission of thesis for final evaluation.

21.12 The PhD candidates shall publish at least one research paper in an HEC recognized journal of international repute prior to the submission of final draft of the thesis to the University.

21.13 The thesis is expected to be the Candidate's own account of the work undertaken. The thesis may consist of a single written work. The language of expression and analysis must be English and must demonstrate a satisfactory standard of literary presentation.

21.14 Additionally, for PhD programs, the thesis is expected to make a distinct contribution to knowledge and must show the evidence of originality by the discovery of new facts and/or by offering new interpretation. It is expected to be pushing the frontiers of knowledge.

21.15 Any minor change in the topic of the thesis, if made without changing the main theme, shall be approved/ratified by the BASR on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee. If due to this change, the research is to be conducted in an entirely new area, the Advisory Committee shall treat it as a new research proposal and follow the course applicable to a new research proposal.

21.16 The thesis text format, referencing and other parts must conform to the University standards. The Supervisor and the HOD shall each certify that the submitted thesis is in the format and of an editorial standard recognized by the University.

21.17 The Candidate shall submit a declaration that the thesis has not already been

submitted, in part or as a whole, and shall not be submitted by him/her in the future for obtaining any other degree from this or other university or institution.

21.18 The Candidate shall submit to the Controller Examinations, through the HOD/Dean, a Plagiarism Detection Report on the thesis for its final evaluation. The Similarity Index should not exceed the limit imposed by the HEC or the respective Regulatory Body. The plagiarism detection process shall exclude preliminary part of the thesis (title pages, acknowledgments, table of contents and the list of figures/tables) as well as the end-matter (list of references, biography and glossary).

21.19 After approval of the thesis by the Advisory Committee, the Candidate shall submit four copies of the thesis, along with a soft copy, to the Controller of Examinations, through the HOD and Dean of Faculty, for evaluation.

THESIS EVALUATION AND DEFENCE (MS CANDIDATES)

21.20 After receiving approval of the thesis by the Supervisor and the majority of the Advisory Committee, the BASR shall allow a candidate to conduct the final defence of the thesis. The Panel of Examiners shall consist of the Supervisor, the Advisory Committee and a BASR representative, if nominated.

21.21 The date of thesis defence shall be notified by the Controller of Examinations at least two weeks in advance. The format of the final thesis defence shall involve an oral presentation by the Candidate followed by a question-answer session, before the Panel of Examiners. The thesis defence shall be open to all those interested, but the evaluation shall be done only by the Panel of Examiners.

21.22 The Candidate shall be given three chances to defend the thesis successfully. After a failed attempt, the Panel of Examiners shall specify the time period within which a Candidate shall be required to defend his/her thesis again.

21.23 If the Candidate is successful in the thesis defence, the result shall be communicated to the BASR for further action towards award of the degree.

21.24 On failing to defend the thesis in three attempts, the Candidate will not get the degree and will be dropped from the Program.

THESIS EVALUATION (PHD CANDIDATES)

21.25 In consultation with the Supervisor, the HOD, through the Dean of Faculty, shall submit to the Controller of Examinations, the names of three (3) Foreign Evaluators from technologically advanced countries and two (2) Local Evaluators who are HEC Approved PhD Supervisors. The BASR will approve two (2) of the Foreign and one Local Evaluator to evaluate the thesis.

21.26 The Foreign and Local Evaluators shall be requested to examine the thesis and send their evaluation reports within eight (8) weeks of the receipt of the thesis. Where an evaluator is unable to meet the original or a re-negotiated deadline, the Vice Chancellor may appoint another evaluator out of the list of recommended evaluators.

21.27 The thesis shall be evaluated as "Approved," "Not Approved" or "Conditionally Approved". The "Conditionally Approved" evaluation report shall mean that an Evaluator wants the Candidate to make specific change(s) in the thesis. The Evaluator shall specify change(s) in the "Conditionally Approved" evaluation report.

The Candidate shall make the required changes in consultation with the Supervisor, within the time period fixed by the BASR. If the Candidate has made the suggested changes to the satisfaction of the Evaluator who suggested these changes, the thesis shall be considered to have received an “Approved” evaluation report after the Evaluator has approved the changes in writing.

21.28 The Thesis must be Approved by the Foreign Evaluators, before the candidate is allowed to make a defence of the thesis. Following refers to the evaluation of the Foreign Evaluators.

21.28.1 If both Evaluators evaluate the thesis as “Approved”, the Candidate will be allowed to defend the thesis.

21.65.2. If one Evaluator evaluates the thesis as “Approved” and the other evaluates it as “Conditionally Approved”, the Candidate shall be required to make the suggested changes to the satisfaction of that Evaluator. If that Evaluator then approves the changes in writing, the Candidate will be allowed to defend the thesis.

21.65.3 If both the Evaluators evaluate the thesis as “Conditionally Approved”, the Candidate shall be required to make the suggested changes to the satisfaction of both the Evaluators. If both the Evaluators then approve the changes in writing, the Candidate will be allowed to defend the thesis.

21.65.4 If one Evaluator evaluates the thesis as “Approved”, while the other evaluates it as “Not Approved”, the thesis shall be sent to a third Foreign Evaluator for evaluation. If the third Evaluator evaluates the thesis as:

21.65.4.1 “Approved”, the Candidate will be allowed to defend the thesis.

21.65.4.2 “Conditionally Approved”, the actions will be as specified in para 21.65.2.

21.65.4.3 “Not Approved”, the Candidate fails and will be dropped out of the program.

21.66 If one Evaluator evaluates the thesis as “Conditionally Approved” and the other evaluates it as “Not Approved”, the thesis shall be sent to a third Foreign Evaluator for evaluation. If the third Evaluator evaluates it as:

21.66.1 “Approved”, the Candidate will be allowed to defend the thesis.

21.66.2 “Conditionally Approved”, the actions will be as specified in para 21.65.3.

21.66.3 “Not Approved”, the Candidate will be dropped out of the program

21.67 If both the Evaluators send “Not Approved” evaluation reports, the Candidate shall be deemed to have failed in producing an acceptable thesis for the award of degree and dropped out of the program.

21.68 The aforementioned conditions are summarized in the following table:

Evaluation Report by the First Two Foreign Evaluators	Evaluation Report by the Third Foreign Evaluator (where required)	Candidate's Action: Defend the Thesis, or Amend & Defend the Thesis, or Drop Out of the Program (as per Article)
Approved & Approved	-	Defend (21.65.1)
Approved & Conditionally Approved	-	Amend & Defend (21.65.2)
Conditionally Approved & Conditionally Approved	-	Amend & Defend (21.65.3)
Approved & Not-Approved	Approved	Defend (21.65.1)
	Conditionally Approved	Amend & Defend (21.65.2)
	Not Approved	Drop out
Conditionally Approved & Not-Approved	Approved	Amend & Defend (21.65.2)
	Conditionally Approved	Amend & Defend (21.65.3)
	Not Approved	Drop out
Not Approved & Not Approved	-	Drop out

THESIS DEFENCE (PHD CANDIDATES)

21.69 After receiving Approval of the thesis by the Foreign Evaluators, the Supervisor and the majority of the Advisory Committee, the BASR shall allow a candidate to conduct the final defence of the thesis. The Panel of Examiners shall consist of the Supervisor, the Advisory Committee, the Foreign Evaluators and Local Evaluator.

21.70 The date of thesis defence shall be notified by the Controller of Examinations at least two weeks in advance. The thesis defence shall be publicized and open to all those interested, but the formal evaluation shall be done only by the Panel of Examiners.

21.71 The format of the final thesis defence shall involve an oral presentation by the Candidate before the Panel of Examiners followed by a question-answer session. The success or failure of the Candidate shall be decided by the Panel of Examiners through voting. In case of a tie the Supervisor shall have the casting vote.

21.72 If the Candidate is declared successful in the thesis defence, the result shall be communicated to the Controller of Examination and BASR for further action towards award of the degree.

21.73 In case of a failure to defend the thesis, the Panel of Examiners shall specify the time period within which a Candidate shall be required to defend his/her thesis again.

21.74 A Candidate may be given up to three chances to defend the thesis successfully. On failing to defend the thesis in three attempts, the Candidate will not get the degree and will be dropped from the Program.

AWARD OF THE DEGREE

21.75 Having satisfied itself to fulfillment of all requirements, the BASR shall recommend to the Vice Chancellor, through Controller Examinations, the award of MS/PhD degree, as the case may be, to the Candidate.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS TO GRADUATE STUDENTS

21.76 A graduate student may be employed as Teaching Assistant (TA) or Research Assistant (RA) during the course of his/her studies at DSU subject to the following rules:

21.76.1 The appointment of TA/RA is purely temporary and shall be made by the Vice Chancellor for up to six months at a time.

21.76.2 A Teaching Assistant can only be employed to work under the supervision of an Associate Professor or Professor.

21.76.3 A Research Assistant can only be employed to work under the supervision of a faculty member (Assistant Professor/Associate Professor/Professor) who has an active funded research project. The salary of the Research Assistant is to be paid out of funds of the research project.

21.76.4 The workload of a Teaching Assistant shall include grading of homework assignments and quizzes, teaching in the laboratory, conducting extra help sessions for students beyond the regular/scheduled lectures, preparing material for use in the course, etc.

21.76.5 Regular/scheduled lectures are not to be conducted by a Teaching Assistant. The work of a Teaching Assistant is to be closely supervised by the faculty member to whom the Teaching Assistant is assigned.

21.76.6 The workload of a Research Assistant shall be determined by the faculty member whose research project is being used to pay RA's salary.

21.76.7 The salary of a TA/RA may range between 50% to 100% of the Basic Pay of a Lecturer (without any allowances). The salary of a TA/RA shall be recommended by the HOD, rationalized by the Dean of the Faculty and approved by the Vice Chancellor. The factors used in determining the salary of a TA/RA shall be his/her academic qualifications and the potential to perform with excellence in the tasks to be assigned to him/her.

21.76.8 The TA/RA must maintain the required CGPA to avoid academic probation or deficiency. A graduate student who is currently on academic probation cannot be appointed as TA/RA.

21.76.9 The TA/RA must observe the DSU Faculty Code of Conduct as specified in the Statutes.