

Guidelines for Supervisory Committee Appointments for Graduate Degrees

1. Members of supervisory committees must have a record of active scholarship or special expertise related to the student's program and hold the accepted final degree in their field, *unless an exception is approved* by the graduate dean based on other evidence of accomplishment. A committee member should hold a degree equivalent to or higher than the one the graduate student is seeking and have completed a dissertation or thesis requirement similar to that which the graduate student is completing.
2. A member must have a faculty appointment at the assistant professor level or higher (including clinical, library, and research ranks), *except* as noted below.
3. Adjunct faculty members *without* a full-time USU appointment may serve on supervisory committees upon recommendation by the department and approval by the graduate dean, but a *majority* of the members of each supervisory committee must be core faculty members who have full-time USU appointments.
4. Clinical instructors and lecturers may serve on master's committees (usually for nonthesis degrees) upon recommendation of the department and approval by the graduate dean.
5. Upon recommendation of the department head, emeritus faculty may serve on supervisory committees, but *may not* chair new committees.
6. To serve as chairperson/major professor of a thesis or dissertation committee, the faculty member must have a record of current (last five years), active research and/or scholarship. A faculty member *other than* core faculty may serve as the chairperson/major professor *only* under *exceptional conditions* of research supervision approved by the graduate dean.
7. A faculty member *should not* be appointed to a supervisory committee if, for any reason, he or she *will not be available* for committee meetings. Ideally, all members should be present for the final defense, and the defense should be scheduled accordingly. Technology-assisted participation in the defense by a faculty member is acceptable, when an absence is unavoidable. The student and the student's major professor *must be present* for the defense. *No more than one* committee member for a master's defense and *no more than two* committee members for a doctoral defense may participate via technology.

Sources:	Approved by Graduate Council	April 24, 1991
	Revised by Graduate Council	December 18, 1996
	Revised by Graduate Council	February 18, 1999
	Revised by Graduate Council	April 25, 2003
	Revised by Graduate Council	November 14, 2007