

GUIDELINES FOR THE COMPOSITION OF DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

Department of Criminology, Law and Society

CLS Catalog Text

The student's committee is composed of at least four faculty members. Three of the four must be members of the graduate faculty in criminology, law and society. The fourth must be from another program at Mason or from outside the university. The faculty member serving as the chair of the committee must be a member of the graduate faculty in criminology, law and society.

Additional Guidelines

All members of a dissertation committee must have a PhD degree.

Students who wish to appoint someone without a current faculty appointment as their fourth committee member must request prior approval from the Graduate Director and provide documentation of the person's academic experience (e.g. research background, publishing, etc.).

Students may have more than four members on their dissertation committee, though this is not usually recommended.

Student-initiated changes in the composition of the dissertation committee may occur only with the approval of the Graduate Director and the dean in consultation with the committee.

Faculty may resign from a dissertation committee with appropriate notice by submitting a written resignation.