Objective: The final oral examination of MASc graduate students is a degree milestone. Its purpose is to evaluate if the candidate has in depth knowledge about the research contained in the thesis document. More specifically, its objective is to validate the candidate’s knowledge:
   a) in defining the research problem presented in the thesis;
   b) in providing sufficient analytical understanding of the relevant literature; and
   c) in his/her capacity to critically evaluate the outcomes presented in the thesis document.

Oral Examiners: The examiners for this examination are the same as the designated thesis readers.

Timeline: The final oral exam should happen within the 3-week period when the thesis is deposited at the Engineering Graduate Studies Office.

Format: The examination will have two parts. In the first part the candidate will make an oral presentation of maximum 20 minutes. In the second part the examiners will ask questions orally. The suggested time for the second part is from 40 to 60 minutes. It is expected that the entire examination should last less than 1 hour and 30 minutes, although there is no time limit for this examination. The order for asking questions in each round should be first the examiners that are not the (co-)supervisor(s) followed by (co-)supervisor(s). Only the examiners should ask questions. There may be several rounds of questions. The examination can be open to the public or closed; the candidate and the (co-)supervisor(s) will decide. If the examination in closed, the Associate Chair for Graduate Studies, the Chair of the Department and/or the Associate Dean for Graduate Studies may attend the examination.

Outcome: Each examiner that is satisfied with the performance of the candidate in the final oral examination should indicate that by signing on the acceptance of the thesis Form B (Faculty of Engineering). The same signature is used for accepting the thesis and the final oral examination when the thesis reader/examiner reaches a decision. If the performance of the candidate is not satisfactory to a certain oral examiner, such examiner should not sign on the acceptance of the thesis (Form B) and a new final oral exam should be scheduled. After the final exam is completed successfully to the satisfaction of all oral examiners, the (co-)supervisor(s) will also sign on the Chemical Engineering Sign-Off Sheet. An in camera session at the end of the examination is not needed, since each examiner will decide on the outcome individually. Disputes will be settled by the Associate Chair for Graduate Studies, which may require a new examination.