

GUIDELINES FOR FINAL ORAL EXAMINATION OF MASc GRADUATE STUDENTS

Rev. Aug 12 2026

Objective:

The final oral examination of MASc graduate students is a degree requirement and milestone on the academic transcript. Its purpose is to evaluate if the candidate has in depth knowledge about the research contained in the thesis document. Specifically, the 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
- 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 for its mandatory display period.

Please ensure that ALL committee members will be present or that you have made arrangements for a hybrid or fully remote oral examination. Book your oral examination before the three-week display period begins. Ensure that you book a room with the Department secretary, and complete the [registration form](#)

The oral examination will be displayed on the Department event's page. **Please indicate if the examination is to be closed to the public.**

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 40-60 minutes. It is expected that the entire examination should last less than 1.5 hours, although there is no set time limit for this examination.
- The order for asking questions in each round should be first the examiners that are not the supervisor(s), followed by questions from the 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, to be decided by student/supervisor
- If closed, the Chair of the Department and/or Assoc. Dean Graduate Studies may attend

Outcome:

- Each examiner that is satisfied with the performance of the candidate in the final oral examination should indicate that by signing on the Department approval of MASc thesis form provided to you by the Faculty of Engineering.

- If the performance of the candidate **is not** satisfactory to a certain oral examiner, the examiner should not sign on the Department approval of MSc thesis form, and a new final oral exam should be scheduled.
- After the final exam is completed successfully to the satisfaction of all oral examiners, the supervisor(s) will also sign off as a committee member as well as on the supervisor(s) signature line.
- No in camera session is required since each examiner will decide on the outcome individually. Disputes will be settled by the Associate Chair of Graduate Studies, and may require a new examination.