

Thesis Defense FAQs

When do I need to defend by?

You should defend your thesis by the end of day on Friday, May 1. This is the Friday before Finals Week begins.

When is the final version of my thesis due?

The final version of your thesis is due to the library by Wednesday, May 13. This gives you at least a week and a half to make the revisions suggested by your thesis committee.

How do I submit the final version of my thesis?

You submit the final version by going to this library [website](#). Select the option for “Submit a thesis” and follow the instructions. If you have questions, please contact us. If you’d like to see previous theses, select the option for “Browse honors projects.”

What format should it be in?

Your thesis should be in the format appropriate for your discipline. You should discuss this with your research mentor.

How long should my thesis be?

There are no length requirements for the thesis. Length will vary depending on the discipline you’re in. Your research mentor should be your guide here.

Who should be on my thesis committee?

Your thesis committee should have 3 full-time faculty members on it. One of them will be your research mentor. The remaining members of your committee should have some expertise in the topic or methods of your project/discipline. We recommend that at least one of the remaining two members be in the same discipline as your thesis topic or a closely-related discipline. You should consult with your research mentor to form your committee.

In rare cases, you might want to ask a part-time faculty member, staff member, or someone external to the university to be on your committee because of their expertise. This needs to be approved by the program directors first.

When should I form my thesis committee?

You should have your thesis committee formed by the end of the Fall semester. There is no specific date. The earlier, the better.

When should I get a draft of my thesis to my committee?

We recommend getting a draft to them at least 2 weeks before your defense date. We recommend consulting with your committee and your mentor about the best timeline for you. Check the timeline that you developed with your mentor at the beginning of the Fall semester.

What do I do once I've figured out a defense date?

Email Melissa Eckenrode (melissa.eckenrode@scranton.edu) with the name of your committee members, the title of your thesis, and your defense date. She will put together the signature page for your defense and send it to your research mentors. When you pass your defense, your committee members will sign it and send it back to Melissa. We will then notify the Registrar's Office.

How do I get a room for my defense?

Your mentor will do this. If your mentor needs help with this, please have them contact Melissa Eckenrode (melissa.eckenrode@scranton.edu) and she will get a room for you.

What is the defense format?

The defense is typically 50 minutes. You give a presentation on your thesis for the first 25 minutes. Most students present a slideshow but you don't have to. Then, audience members ask questions. Your committee is usually the last to ask questions. When questions are over, you will be asked to leave the room while the committee confers. You'll be invited back in when they are done.

Who can come to my defense?

You can invite whoever you would like. It can just be you and your committee members. Or you could invite a few friends and/or classmates. Or you could invite your whole department. The only people that must be there are you and your committee members.

What should I do after I successfully pass my defense?

Celebrate! Be proud of all that you've accomplished!