



PHD IN LAW GUIDELINES AND REQUIREMENTS

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GRADUATE STUDIES IN LAW
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The following guide provides students and professors with all the necessary information about doctoral studies at the Faculty of Law. Particularly, this guide addresses the roles and responsibilities of the supervisor and student. Additionally, it presents the requirements of the PhD in Law program so that our students and the professors can meet the expectations of the program.

We are confident that this guide will help students during their law studies and professors throughout the academic career. If you have additional questions, contact us by email etudgrad@uottawa.ca.

Basic information for doctoral students

Below is a list of useful links and topics. Please ensure to familiarize yourself with this information at the beginning of the program. We invite you to refer to it all along your doctoral journey:

- The requirements of your [PhD](#) program.
- The university's [Academic Regulation C-7](#) and [Policies and Regulations](#) for graduate studies.
- [Important academic dates and deadlines](#)
- The University of Ottawa's [Thesis Handbook](#)
- The University [Course timetables](#)
- Beware of [plagiarism](#)
- **Service requests:** if you need to take a study leave, extend the duration of your program, change your status or complete your study progress report, you must complete a service request and submit it in your uoZone student portal. Service requests are electronic forms that graduate students submit to their supervisor or faculty for approval. For instructions and types of service request, consult the student hub, under PhD, [request services](#).
- Log in to your [uoZone](#) account, which is your online portal to learn about class schedules and submit a service request.
- **Health and wellness:** the [Wellness Hub](#) gathers useful information and resources on mental health and wellness. It offers many typical services to the community, including the ability to [chat](#) with peers, mentors, and well-trained staff in mental health and wellness support.

Roles and Responsibilities – best practices

Roles and Responsibilities of a Supervisor

- Communicate and validate expectations from the start of the program;
- Respond to student messages within a reasonable time; when needed, inform them that they must wait for a complete response;
- Ensure that you are available for supervision and decide jointly how often to meet;
- Be prepared to support students in research activities, such as scholarship applications and job applications, involve them in research projects;
- Discuss student plans and objectives;
- Assist the student in refining his research problem;
- Assist the student in structuring and organizing his work;
- Set up the thesis committee early, before the Comprehensive Exam;

- Refer the student, if needed, to appropriate services (mental health care, writing assistance, etc.);
- Perform administrative tasks related to supervision (approve service requests for leave, progress reports, request for extension, etc.).

Roles and Responsibilities of students

- Contact your supervisor once the program has started (preferably in the first semester);
- To be informed of and to agree upon each person's expectations;
- Respect established deadlines and notify your supervisor in case of delays;
- Inform your supervisor of your accomplishments and any challenges you have encountered;
- Recognize that the supervisor has various responsibilities and obligations. Give him adequate time to read the texts and provide feedback (deadlines to be established together);
- Be receptive to criticism, suggestions, and different perspectives;
- Demonstrate autonomy, organizational skills, and resilience;
- Know the requirements of the program;
- Familiarize yourself with the graduate studies regulations.

Registration of thesis topic

The doctoral student must register his thesis subject before the end of the third trimester of enrollment in the study program. The general research topic, including major themes and research topic, must be determined in consultation with the thesis supervisor.

Under the Applications tab in [uoZone](#), click on Candidate Center to create a service request and register your thesis topic.

Annual research progress report

- All students registered in a thesis program must submit an [annual progress report](#).
- Students who receive scholarships from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC) or from the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada (NSERC) must also submit progress reports.
- The student must submit the progress report to his/her supervisor by creating a Service request through their uoZone.
- If the student fails to submit a progress report, the access to registration will be blocked until the student remedies the situation. Not registering could have major financial impact and may eventually lead to the student's academic file being closed without further notice.
- Any scholarship may be suspended or cancelled.

PhD in Law Program Requirements

Below is an overview of the suggested course of study for doctoral students in law (Ph.D.). However, a student may have to follow a slightly different schedule depending on his/her research topic and personal and professional demands. If that is the case, the student must first consult with his/her thesis supervisor and members of the thesis committee. Students must take into consideration the following elements when establishing their schedule and course of study; they must remain registered full-time for the duration of the program (maximum 5 years).

When it is necessary to make changes to a student's course of study (i.e. request an extension, request for leave of absence, submit a progress report, etc.) the student must submit a [Service Request](#) through their uoZone portal under applications.

Once submitted the approval process will begin and student will be notified once all approvals have been received.

Suggested course of study

Term	Courses/Activities
Year 1 Term 1	DCL 8330 – Legal Research Methodology and Theory (*usually offered in the fall) DCL 9998 – Comprehensive Exam (Must remain registered in this course until completed) (Should complete no later than term 4 of PhD program)
Year 1 Term 2	DCL 9998 – Comprehensive Exam (Must remain registered in this course until completed) 1 Elective course (related to the thesis research area)
Year 1 Term 3	DCL 9998 – Comprehensive Examination (Must remain registered in this course until completed)
Year 2	DCL 9998 – Comprehensive Examination (Must remain registered in this course until completed) DCL 9997 – Thesis Proposal Examination (Must remain registered in this course until completed) (Must complete prior to submitting thesis for evaluation)
Year 2	DCL 9997 – Thesis Proposal Examination (Must remain registered in this course until completed)
Year 4	THD 9999 – PhD Thesis (Must remain registered in this course until completed)

DCL 8330: Legal Research Methodology and Theory

This course provides an overview of important methodological and epistemological questions as well as methods used in legal research and writing. This course is compulsory for all PhD in Law students.

Elective Courses

Students are required to complete one elective course as part of their PhD program. The elective course is chosen from the bank of graduate courses offered at the Faculty of Law or, where appropriate, from another faculty at the University of Ottawa. The course must be relevant to the student's doctoral research and must be

approved by the student's supervisor.

DCL 9998: Comprehensive Exam

The comprehensive exam course is intended to provide the student with an opportunity to read and master materials tailored to his/her particular area of study, taking into account his/her previous training.

The student will complete this course under the direction of his/her supervisor and two other proposed committee members. By the end of the student's third or fourth term in the program, they are generally expected to have completed both the written and oral parts of the comprehensive exam. The student must remain registered in this course until completed.

Setting up a committee

The student's supervisor is responsible for approaching at least two colleagues* (whether from the Faculty of Law, other faculties on campus or from other Universities) to serve as committee members that participate in and evaluate DCL 9998- comprehensive exam and DCL 9997. Members selected for the committee will also serve as examiners in the evaluation process of the PhD thesis evaluation.

Supervisors are invited to have the committee established soon after the student arrives and commences the PhD program, so that a reading list may be prepared in time for the student to make significant progress during their first term of registration.

The [Thesis Advisory Committee \(TAC\)](#) form is attached to a service request and submitted, via uoZone, at the same time as the Registration of thesis topic submission.

* In the case of co-supervision, the TAC form must include the supervisor, the co-supervisor and two committee members. **Exceptionally, the fourth member of the committee may be included after the comprehensive examination (DCL 9998) and before the thesis project (DCL 9997).**

Preparing the reading list

Once the committee has been established, its members should begin working with the student to design a list of readings. The premise is that the readings assigned to the student will be works with which the student is not familiar or, if familiar, be works that require substantial additional study beyond what the student may have already done in connection with them.

The reading list can be organized in different ways and should be left to the discretion of the supervisor and committee members.

Nevertheless, here are some examples of how the list could be prepared:

The student may complete readings in one single area related to their thesis proposal under the supervision of their supervisor and committee members. Then the supervisor and each committee member would then supervise the part of the reading list with which he/she is the most familiar.

Themes or fields may be substantive or methodological or both.

Alternatively, the list may be organized around two or three " themes" chosen with reference to the candidate's thesis proposal.

Examples of fields include:

- The effectiveness of law
- Classical theories on punishment
- Critical theories of international law
- Legal ethnology
- Epistemological and ethical aspects of research on Aboriginal subjects
- Feminist theories of law
- The concept of prevention in international law
- Etc.

The students can include one interdisciplinary field in their reading list, a field that seeks to combine study of the law with insights from a discipline other than law (such as economics, history, criminology, sociology, philosophy, political science, population health, and so on). In this case, it is possible to include a member of the thesis committee from another faculty.

As an indicator, each field should include around 1000-1500 pages up to a maximum of 3500 pages for all fields. The total number of pages if readings relate to one single field should be around 3000 with a maximum of 3500 pages.

Submitting the reading list

The student must submit a **preliminary list** with full bibliographical references (electronic version) to their supervisor and committee members no later than **the end of the first semester at the PhD**. The preliminary list should contain a sufficient number of readings to allow for suitable progress pending the submission of a final list. This being said, the “preliminary” status of the reading list could mean that the student has yet to submit the name(s) of one of their committee members or that some readings are missing under one field or another.

We understand that the list may be modified as the student progresses in their readings and develops new ideas and interests. However, it is important to have a final list of readings that the student, supervisor, and committee members agree will be the basis of evaluation. This **final list** should be submitted, electronically, to the supervisor, committee members and the **Brian Dickson Law Library** droitlaw@uOttawa.ca, no later than the **end of the student’s second term**.

Readings and Meetings

The student must meet with their supervisor and each member of their thesis committee **at least twice** to discuss the readings.

Within this context, supervisor, committee members and student are free to establish their own approach based on their needs and availability.

For example, these meetings could take place once a term for each field or on a schedule agreed to by the student, supervisor and committee members. The student might elect, for example, to do the readings in a specific field during the first term and those in another field in the second term depending on the availability of the supervisor and each of the committee members. The supervisor and members of the committee might also elect to meet as a group with the student to discuss a series of readings.

These meetings can have several formats. For example, one member might ask the student to provide a brief summary (1 to 2 pages) of the readings completed and the key issues they raise before each meeting in order to provide a framework for the

discussions and to facilitate the task of the supervisor and committee member. Another approach might be to submit a series of questions on the readings to the student prior to the meeting and then to discuss the questions during the meeting.

Evaluating the student

The thesis committee (led by the supervisor) has the freedom to determine the content and format of the two examinations related to the comprehensive examination. In addition, the student's supervisor must keep the Graduate Studies in Law office in cc etudgrad@uottawa.ca when submitting the written exam as well as confirming the oral exam. Also, the student must cc etudgrad@uottawa.ca the Graduate Studies in Law Office when submitting the written responses.

Written Examination

The first component of the comprehensive exam is a **written** examination for which a grade of **satisfactory/not satisfactory** will be assigned. The student must pass the written examination before being permitted to proceed to the oral examination and, the student must remain registered in this course until completed.

The suggested format is a take-home exam of 10 working days duration for which each committee member would contribute a question and subsequently evaluate the student's answers. Alternatively, the Committee could agree on one single question, the student's answer then being assessed by all members. The target length of the written answer(s) should be approximately 30 pages (double-spaced) in total.

When the committee and the student are ready to proceed with the exam, the supervisor should inform the Graduate Studies Office etudgrad@uottawa.ca of the start and end date of the exam (10 working days). The supervisor should then arrange for the student to receive the exam questions.

Once the student has completed the exam, he/she should submit electronic version to the supervisor, each committee member and copy to the Graduate Studies office etudgrad@uottawa.ca.

The members of the thesis committee and the thesis supervisor have 10 working days to complete and return the [Comprehensive Exam Written Evaluation](#) form to the Graduate Studies Office etudgrad@uottawa.ca.

If the written part of the comprehensive exam is deemed "unsatisfactory (NS)", the student cannot proceed to the oral portion of the exam and a failing grade (NS) will be entered on file. However, according to [Academic Regulation C-4 \(C-4.2\)](#), if a student fails a course, the student may repeat the course or retake the comprehensive examination, revise and resubmit the thesis proposal or major research paper, or take another course specified by the academic unit. The failing grade will remain on the transcript even if the student successfully repeats the course, retakes the comprehensive examination, or resubmits the thesis proposal or major research paper. The failing mark remains on the transcript, even if the course, comprehensive examination, thesis project or dissertation is successful when it is retaken or submitted for the second time. In case of resumption, the members of the thesis committee as well as the thesis supervisor agree on the modifications to be required of the student.

If the written part of the comprehensive exam is deemed "**Satisfactory**" then the student will proceed to the oral part of the comprehensive exam.

Once the evaluation has been completed by the committee, the supervisor must send the [Comprehensive Exam Written Evaluation](#) form to the Graduate Studies Office (etudgrad@uottawa.ca) within 10 working days.

Oral Examination

The Oral Examination is the second component of the comprehensive exam. This second component is an oral examination of approximately 1 hour to 1 ½ hours in length. It is an opportunity for the supervisor and all committee members to ask further questions that go beyond the written examination and/or to examine connections between the works and the student's project. **The student must have all comments from the written examination before proceeding to the oral examination.**

The oral examination is to be held on a date, within a reasonable timeframe, chosen by the supervisor and all committee members and may take place in the supervisor's office. The location and time of the exam are to be organized by the supervisor. Once established, we ask that the supervisor inform the Graduate Studies in Law office, of the date and time of the oral examination etudgrad@uottawa.ca. The oral examination is not open to the public.

If the oral part of the comprehensive exam is deemed "unsatisfactory (NS)", a failing grade (NS) will be entered on file. However, according to [Academic Regulation C-4 \(C-4.2\)](#), if a student fails a course, the student may repeat the course or retake the comprehensive examination, revise and resubmit the thesis proposal or major research paper, or take another course specified by the academic unit. The failing grade will remain on the transcript even if the student successfully repeats the course, retakes the comprehensive examination, or resubmits the thesis proposal or major research paper. The failing mark remains on the transcript, even if the course, comprehensive examination, thesis project or dissertation is successful when it is retaken or submitted for the second time.

In case of resumption, the members of the thesis committee as well as the thesis supervisor agree on the modifications to be required of the student.

Once the evaluation has been completed by the committee, the supervisor must send the [Comprehensive Exam Oral Examination](#) form to the Graduate Studies Office etudgrad@uottawa.ca within 10 working days.

DCL 9997: Thesis Proposal

After completing all other degree requirements, the student must present, in writing and orally, his/her thesis proposal. The student must remain registered in this course until completed

The thesis proposal consists of the following:

- a) the title;
- b) the research topic;
- c) the summary framework (or outline);
- d) the research question or questions;
- e) an overview of the theoretical context surrounding the research questions;
- f) an overview of the main argument to be developed;
- g) the importance and originality of the research;
- h) the methodology used (if the student's research project "involves human subjects" and therefore requires the approval of the Office of Research Ethics (<http://www.research.uottawa.ca/ethics/index.html>), the student should mention whether this approval was sought or when it will be);
- i) A timeline for the accomplishment of the different stages of the thesis including ethics approval where applicable;
- j) and a relevant bibliography.

The thesis proposal consists of 20 to 25 pages double spaced (excluding the bibliography).

Written Examination

The student must submit an electronic version of the thesis proposal to their supervisor and each committee member as well as copying the Graduate Studies in Law office etudgrad@uottawa.ca.

The thesis supervisor and committee members read and approve the thesis proposal. The committee members may make any comments they deem appropriate and may suggest any revisions to the thesis proposal. No evaluations need to be handed in at this point. All communications are between the student, supervisor and committee members.

When the committee is satisfied with the proposal and deem the student ready, the student will be asked to proceed with an oral defence of their thesis proposal.

If the supervisor and one or more of the committee members express serious concerns about the proposal, the Vice-Dean of Graduate Studies will be informed. They will bring all members together to discuss the modifications that need to be made by the student before proceeding to the oral defence of the thesis proposal.

Oral Examination

The oral defence of the thesis proposal is a public event dedicated to the promotion of the student's research. It provides an opportunity for the student to present their project and to receive important comments and suggestions from their peers, Faculty members and, where applicable or desired, some external advisors may be invited to the defence.

The thesis proposal defence is organized by the supervisor and committee members. Once the date and time are confirmed the supervisor communicates with the Graduate Studies Law Office etudgrad@uottawa.ca. The Graduate Studies Law office will then book a room and, an announcement sent.

The thesis supervisor chairs the oral defence presentation, and the committee members must be present.

At the oral defence the student begins by describing their proposal for about 30 minutes. This is followed by a period of questions and discussion with the committee members. **At the end, the defence chair may allow the audience to participate.**

Once the oral defence is completed, the supervisor and committee members must submit the [Thesis Proposal Evaluation form](#) within 10 working days, to the Graduate Studies in Law Office or by PDF attachment to etudgrad@uottawa.ca.

If the oral defence is deemed "unsatisfactory (NS)", a failing grade (NS) will be entered on file. However, according to [Academic Regulation C-4 \(C-4.2\)](#), if a student fails a course, the student may repeat the course or retake the comprehensive examination, revise and resubmit the thesis proposal or major research paper, or take another course specified by the academic unit. The failing grade will remain on the transcript even if the student successfully repeats the course, retakes the comprehensive examination, or resubmits the thesis proposal or major research paper. The failing mark remains on the transcript, even if

the course, comprehensive examination, thesis project or dissertation is successful when it is retaken or submitted for the second time. In case of resumption, the members of the thesis committee as well as the thesis supervisor agree on the modifications to be required of the student.

Once the evaluation has been completed by the committee, the supervisor must send the [Thesis Proposal Evaluation form](#) to the Graduate Studies Office (etudgrad@uottawa.ca) within 10 working days.

According to [Academic Regulation C-4 \(C-4.2\)](#), supplemental examinations are not allowed in graduate studies courses (including in undergraduate courses taken for credit in graduate programs, qualifying program courses or supplementary courses). If a student fails a course, the student may repeat the course or retake the comprehensive examination, revise and resubmit the thesis proposal or major research paper, or take another course specified by the academic unit. The failing grade will remain on the transcript even if the student successfully repeats the course, retakes the comprehensive examination, or resubmits the thesis proposal or major research paper.

Students whose progress is unsatisfactory, or who do not meet the requirements of their program, will be withdrawn from the program. Reasons for withdrawal include:

- two failures in the program, whether of courses, the major research paper, the comprehensive examination or the thesis proposal (unless otherwise specified in regulations specific to the program);
- unsatisfactory performance of research or field work;
- two unsatisfactory progress reports.

THD 9999: Thesis

After the successful completion of the *Thesis Proposal Examination*, students must register for the *PhD Thesis* (THD 9999) and must remain registered for this activity until the thesis has been submitted for evaluation. Students and supervisors should be familiar with the graduate studies [Academic Regulation C-7](#).

The University's Office of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies has developed a ["Guide for Doctoral Theses "](#)

Writing

A thesis is an original work produced by a student while enrolled in a master's or doctoral program at the University. A good thesis is thoroughly researched, demonstrates rigorous critical thinking and analysis, presents a detailed methodology and accurate results, and includes tenacious verification of knowledge claims.

Nomination of Examiners

Note that for a PhD thesis there must be a minimum of four (4) and a maximum of seven (7) examiners, at least one of whom must be an external reviewer. The thesis director is excluded. The student in consultation with their supervisor proposes the list of examiners. It is the responsibility of the supervisor(s) to initiate the first contact with the examiners to ask if they would be available to evaluate the thesis.

The student must ensure that the [List of examiners for the evaluation of the thesis](#) form has been completed and forwarded using a Service Request through their uoZone. The list must be submitted at least **one month** prior to the thesis evaluation submission. Any delay in the submission of this form will delay the entire evaluation and defence process and may have financial consequences since the submission of the thesis cannot be accepted if the list of examiners has not been submitted.

Submission and Evaluation

When submitting a thesis for evaluation, **the student must be enrolled** in the term in which the thesis is officially submitted for evaluation (refer to [Academic Regulation C-7 \(C-7-8.1\)](#)), it is important that the student submits the final draft to their thesis supervisor sufficiently early in the term. By doing so the thesis supervisor can read it, provide feedback and deliver it to the student in a timely manner and consequently, the student can then make the latest revisions or corrections and then submit their thesis for evaluation within the required deadlines.

It is important to verify [important dates and deadlines](#), including the fixed time limit for one's program; the date at which the thesis must be submitted without having to register to the following semester; and, if the student registers for the following semester, the date which the thesis must be submitted in order to benefit from a refund of 100% **if eligible**.

Thesis submission method

The student has to submit an electronic copy (PDF) of the thesis via a service request in the Applicant Center under the [uoZone](#) portal.

Attention, Examiners may require a paper copy. The student will be notified if one or more examiners have requested paper copies and must provide them on request. The student must submit these paper copies (if necessary) to the Faculty of Law, Graduate Studies office.

Statement of the thesis supervisor

For the thesis to be sent to examiners, the supervisor must acknowledge having examined the thesis and propose to submit it to the jury. The thesis supervisor will approve or refute the thesis submission throughout the uoCampus portal.

The thesis supervisor will approve the submission of the thesis if he or she is convinced that the thesis meets the standards of the program of studies. In some cases, the thesis supervisor may ask the student to further develop his or her work.

Students who wish to know their status at this stage must log in to the Candidate Center (uoZone).

Evaluation by the board of examiners

The thesis will be evaluated and subsequently defended in front of a jury. The examination committee is composed of professors other than the thesis supervisor.

The examination committee members read and evaluate the thesis. They must express their opinion on the thesis and indicate if they consider that the thesis is ready for the defence. When the thesis has been submitted for evaluation, the student and the thesis supervisor(s) must not communicate with the examiners prior to the thesis defence regarding the thesis evaluation (refer to [Academic Regulation C-7 \(C-7-8.3\)](#))

According to [Academic Regulation C-7 \(C-7.10.4\)](#), “Two scenarios are possible. The thesis supervisor will indicate, in conformity with the guidelines specific to the program, the scenario that applies to the student.”

For further information, please consult the [Academic Regulation C-7](#).

Please note that the evaluation report is completed via [VirtuO | VirtuO \(uottawa.ca\)](#) under **Access your Service Request Dashboard**.

According to [Academic Regulation C-7 \(C-7.10.5\)](#), “Examiners may write their reports in the official language of their choice.

The written evaluation report must be detailed and must clearly indicate whether the student may proceed to the defence. If so, the reports must contain sufficient detail to enable the student to prepare for the defence. Reports are forwarded to the student, the thesis supervisor, and other examiners, including the chair of the jury, prior to the thesis defence.

If one or several examiners consider that the thesis is not suitable to proceed to the defence, and that revisions to the thesis are necessary, a meeting will be held with the dean (or delegate) to determine if the defence should be rescheduled. If revisions to the thesis are required, the reports must be sufficiently detailed to allow the student to make the desired changes.

If the dean determines that the defence must be postponed, an initial grade of NS will be recorded on the student’s transcript. “

The student must be registered every term to carry out the revisions.

Final Thesis version

After the successful defence and correction of the thesis, the student must submit the corrected thesis through their uoZone as a Service Request in order to get the approval from the thesis supervisor.

The student will also need to register to receive the degree either by using the Apply for Graduation tab in uoZone (if online registration is open) or by submitting a [Registration for Degree and Request for Diploma](#) form with the thesis as part of the same service request.

If the student requests an embargo, they must also complete and submit an [Embargo Request Form as](#) part of the same service request.

When the service request is approved, the student must submit the final version electronically in [uO Research](#), the institutional repository of the University of Ottawa. The University of Ottawa participates in the Thesis Canada program, whereby the electronic version of the thesis is harvested by Library and Archives Canada and added to their online collection. This is the final step to qualify to graduate.

Faculty of Law Doctoral Thesis by Articles: Guidelines

The FGPS Guidelines state that “A doctoral thesis must constitute a significant contribution to knowledge, embody the results of original investigation and analysis of the part of the student and be of such quality as to merit publication”. The thesis must make a significant contribution to the field of law.

A doctoral thesis in law will normally be in the monograph format. With prior written permission **of all members of** the thesis committee and the Vice Dean of Graduate Studies in Law, in **exceptional** cases the thesis may be in the form of a portfolio thesis. This is a thesis composed of articles accepted for publication in scholarly journals, which meets the requirements of the FGPS Guidelines (see s. 6.2 of *Preparing a Thesis or a Research Paper at the University of Ottawa* (Sept 2012) and for thesis by articles and the Faculty of Law's more specific Guidelines for doctorates in law. The student must comply with and complete all other requirements of the PhD in law program. These guidelines apply only to the thesis requirement of the PhD in law program.

Eligibility and Permission

Any student in the doctoral program in law may seek permission to complete their degree by portfolio article thesis instead of a traditional monograph. Regardless of the format of the thesis, all students are encouraged to publish their scholarship as they progress through their degree.

The student must apply for permission to complete their thesis in the form of a article thesis. Written permission must be received from all members of the thesis committee and the Vice Dean of Graduate Studies in Law no later than the Thesis Proposal Examination.

Publication

The articles must be accepted for publication in peer-reviewed scholarly law journals or as peer-reviewed chapters in books. (Articles in non peer-reviewed by well-regarded student run law journals, such as top tiered journals in the US, may also be found to be acceptable by the thesis committee). Where the work is multi-disciplinary, journals in related disciplines may also be found acceptable. The thesis committee will decide which journals are acceptable and appropriate for the doctoral thesis in question.

Peer-review of the published articles does not replace the judgment of the thesis evaluation committee. The thesis evaluation committee makes the ultimate determination of whether the article thesis meets the standard and requirements of a doctoral degree in law in terms of originality, depth and coherence. The thesis committee may require revisions to any portion(s) of the article thesis (even if one or more of the articles themselves are accepted for publication or published and cannot themselves be changed).

Length and Contents

There is no prescribed length for a single article or book chapter, however the overall article of work must represent a body of work equivalent to the standard and requirements of a monograph in law.

An Article Thesis must include:

- a. an introductory chapter which includes a thesis statement, a literature review, the theoretical foundation of the work and a statement of research methodology, and may contain other elements appropriate to the project;
- b. a minimum of three research articles; and
- c. a synthesis and conclusion which links and integrates the material addressed in the articles and provides a global summary and analysis.

Originality, collaborative writing

Originality: As required by the [Academic Regulation C-7 \(C-7.3.2\)](#), “All articles comprising the thesis must be written while the student is enrolled in the program in which the thesis is being submitted.”

Contributions of collaborators: The norm is for the student to be the sole author of all work in the portfolio thesis. In exceptional cases, for example in multidisciplinary work, the committee has the discretion to accept co-authored work, however the student must be the first or principal author and must have contributed a minimum of 2/3 of the content and writing of each article.