

DISSERTATION COMMITTEE

Per GSAS, the responsibility for selecting and recommending the final defense committee members rests with the sponsor, department or program chair, and the director of graduate studies. Students may not select their own defense committees; furthermore, students should not be placed in the position of having to ask particular faculty members to serve on their defense committees.

***NOTE: Students should not have collaborated with 2 out of their 5 examiners**

Your committee will be composed of five members.

1. 3 of the members must be inside examiners (holding a formal appointment or approved as a dissertation sponsor in DEES). Here is a list of all approved DEES [Doctoral Dissertation Sponsors](#)
2. The 4th examiner is typically an inside/outside examiner. This means the examiner could be a full-time faculty member at Columbia University outside the student's own department or program (a Lamont examiner would be classified as an inside/outside examiner)
3. The 5th examiner is an outside examiner. *That the student has not collaborated with.