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# PhD Committee

## When to Use this Form

Use this form to designate faculty members to serve on your PhD committee.

## Student Instructions

1. Fill out the student information fields.
2. In consultation with your advisor/major professor, provide the name and department of each member of your proposed committee. If you have a minor, at least one committee member should be from that academic field. If you have more than 4 members on your committee, please use the Revise PhD Committee form to add more members.
3. If the committee member is to be a chair or co-chair, check the appropriate box under the committee member's name.
4. You will need to get the signatures of any committee members being added to your committee. There are two options for acquiring the signatures: electronic or original signatures. To use electronic signatures, send the form to each of your committee members in turn (do not send to all at the same time) to have them apply their electronic signature using Adobe Acrobat and return it to you (visit the [Graduate School Website](#) for full instructions on this process). Alternatively, you can gather original signatures by printing the form and having each committee member sign the form with a pen.
5. Deliver the form to your department head. If you gather electronic signatures, email the form with all of the signatures. If you get original signatures, you can either scan and email the form, or take it personally to the department head's office. For colleges with no departments, consult your Director of Graduate Studies.

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## Departmental Instructions

- 1. The department head must check the appropriate boxes for each proposed member of the committee.**
- If a proposed committee member will be a chair or co-chair, be sure to check either “Tenure-Track” or “UT Joint Faculty”. **If neither apply, the member cannot be a chair.**
- Pay particular attention to proposed committee members for whom a CV is required. Such categories are marked by (\*) on the form.
- The department head should check that the committee is well-formed, according to the guidelines found at [tiny.utk.edu/committee-guidelines](http://tiny.utk.edu/committee-guidelines).
- The department head should sign where indicated, if they approve the assignments presented in the form, and can confirm that the committee is well-formed. There are two ways to sign the form and deliver to the Graduate School:
  - If the student emailed the filled out form to you, you may apply an electronic signature where indicated (visit the [Graduate School](#) for instructions on this process). Once the file has been saved, it can be emailed to **gradspec@utk.edu**, along with any accompanying CVs.
  - If the student delivered a printed form to you, you will need to apply a physical signature and then submit the form and any accompanying CVs to the Graduate School for processing in one of the following ways:
    - Scan the signed form and email it to **gradspec@utk.edu**.
    - Send the form by mail to the Graduate School.
    - Return the form to the student to deliver the form in person to the Graduate School main office.

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# Rules for PhD Committee

## Committee Membership

- The committee must have at least 4 members.
- At least 2 committee members must be UT tenured or tenure-track faculty members.
- At least one committee member must be from outside of the student's department/interdisciplinary program. This external member can be from outside UT.
- UT tenured or tenure-track faculty without a doctoral degree and other experts in the field may serve on PhD committees with department head approval.
- Emeritus faculty can serve on committees on which they are serving in that capacity at the time of retirement.

## Requirements for Committee Chairs

- Committee chairs must hold a doctoral degree.
- UT tenured, tenure-track, and joint faculty holding a doctoral degree may chair PhD committees.
- The chair is typically from the student's department/interdisciplinary program, but department heads can make exceptions.
- UT employees holding a non-tenure track assistant professor, associate professor or professor title may co-chair committees if their appointment is within the student's major. (The other co-chair must be a UT tenured, tenure-track or joint faculty member.)
- Emeritus faculty can chair committees on which they are serving in that capacity at the time of retirement.

The policy provides for exceptions to the above, and in the case that exceptions are needed, the department head petitions the Dean of the Graduate School.

# PhD Committee

**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_  
Last First Middle

**Student ID #:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Proposed Doctoral Committee

Name (Please Print)	Department	Signature
_____	_____	_____
Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair <input type="checkbox"/>	Tenure-Track <input type="checkbox"/> UT Joint Faculty <input type="checkbox"/>	Dept (Non-Tenure-Track) <input type="checkbox"/> Outside UT* <input type="checkbox"/>
		Non-Departmental <input type="checkbox"/> Other Expert in Field* <input type="checkbox"/>

Name (Please Print)	Department	Signature
_____	_____	_____
Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair <input type="checkbox"/>	Tenure-Track <input type="checkbox"/> UT Joint Faculty <input type="checkbox"/>	Dept (Non-Tenure-Track) <input type="checkbox"/> Outside UT* <input type="checkbox"/>
		Non-Departmental <input type="checkbox"/> Other Expert in Field* <input type="checkbox"/>

Name (Please Print)	Department	Signature
_____	_____	_____
Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair <input type="checkbox"/>	Tenure-Track <input type="checkbox"/> UT Joint Faculty <input type="checkbox"/>	Dept (Non-Tenure-Track) <input type="checkbox"/> Outside UT* <input type="checkbox"/>
		Non-Departmental <input type="checkbox"/> Other Expert in Field* <input type="checkbox"/>

Name (Please Print)	Department	Signature
_____	_____	_____
Chair <input type="checkbox"/> Co-Chair <input type="checkbox"/>	Tenure-Track <input type="checkbox"/> UT Joint Faculty <input type="checkbox"/>	Dept (Non-Tenure-Track) <input type="checkbox"/> Outside UT* <input type="checkbox"/>
		Non-Departmental <input type="checkbox"/> Other Expert in Field* <input type="checkbox"/>

*\* Committee members of this category must be submitted with a CV.*

By signing the statement below, I certify that the proposed committee is well-formed according to the Guidelines for PhD Committee Service ([tiny.utk.edu/committee-guidelines](http://tiny.utk.edu/committee-guidelines)).

**Department Head** \_\_\_\_\_  
Print Name Signature Date

**Graduate School Verification by:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Date:** \_\_\_\_\_