

PHD DISSERTATIONS

During the second semester of their third year, PhD students should secure 1) a dissertation director; 2) a second reader (with a focus on the creative portion of the dissertation); and 3) a third reader (with a focus on the critical portion of the dissertation). Students should limit themselves to three committee members, and are strongly encouraged to select one member from outside the Creative Writing faculty.

The dissertation director and the student will set up a schedule of deadlines and meetings over the course of the student's fourth year, and may decide that the student should set up a similar schedule to work with the third reader on the critical portion. The goal is a completed and revised manuscript of at least 175 pages in prose and 50 pages in poetry, plus a completed and revised critical essay of 20-30 pages. The second and third readers will read the complete manuscript at least once in advance of the defense.

Defense Procedures

It is the student's responsibility to set a date and time for the defense, with an eye toward Graduate School deadlines, and to give copies of the complete dissertation to all three members at least three weeks in advance of the defense. Please note that defenses should be held during the school year.

Defenses will last about an hour and a half. The student can expect questions from the committee about genre, intention, technique, the link between critical and creative practice, and related matters. The committee will also offer critique of both the creative and critical manuscript. After time to confer, the committee will convey results.

Electronic Submission

Creative dissertations are protected from public electronic publishing. Students should be prompted to choose the UC Repository-only option, and should contact the Director of Graduate Studies if there are any problems. Please note that as part of the electronic submission process, students will be asked to upload an abstract of the dissertation.