Teachers College
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY
Office of Doctoral Studies
Box 172 • 324 Bldg 528 • 525 West 120th Street • New York, NY 10027
Phone: (212) 678-4050 • Fax: (212) 678-4050

Scheduling Summer Dissertation Final Oral Defenses

Dissertation Oral Defenses are normally held in the Autumn Term and Spring Term. Starting in the Spring 2027 term, the Office of the Provost has authorized doctoral candidates to request to schedule a Summer Term defense without providing any special criteria or exceptional urgency. The only required items to hold a Summer Term defense are:

1. Submission of an Intention to Defend form (a new one must be provided even if the member originally petitioned for a Spring Term defense)
2. Written confirmation from all four members (for Ed.D. and Ed.D. CTAS defenses), or five members (for Ph.D. defenses and for Ed.D./Ed.D. CTAS defense that happen to have five members)
3. Registration for Dissertation advisement (TI 8900 for Ph.D. candidates) in the Summer Term.

Instructions for Ed.D./Ed.D. CTAS Candidates

To obtain authorization for a Summer Dissertation Oral Defense, please follow the procedures below:

NOTE: The deadline for submission of the Ed.D./Ed.D. CTAS Intention to Defend the Dissertation for a 2027 Summer Defense is Tuesday, April 20th, 2027. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DEADLINE WILL BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

1. The candidate submits the "Ed.D./Ed.D. CTAS Intention to Defend the Dissertation" form requesting a Summer Dissertation Oral Defense. The "Ed.D./Ed.D. CTAS Intention to Defend the Dissertation" form is available on the Doctoral Studies website.

2. In addition, the candidate will provide an e-mail from each member of the Dissertation Oral Defense Committee stating their willingness to participate in the Summer Dissertation Oral Defense.

3. Ed.D./Ed.D. CTAS candidates must register for **Program Code_8900 Dissertation Advisement** for zero (0) points **OR** at least three (3) credits of Teachers College coursework to fulfill the continuous registration fee during the Summer Term they wish to defend.

Once approved, the Office of the Registrar will send the candidate the "Ed.D./Ed.D. CTAS Application for Defense" form.

Instructions for Ph.D. Candidates

To obtain authorization for a Summer Dissertation Oral Defense, please follow the procedures below:

NOTE: The deadline for submission of the Ph.D. Intention to Defend the Dissertation for a 2027 Summer Defense is Tuesday, April 20th, 2027. APPLICATIONS RECEIVED AFTER THIS DEADLINE WILL BE CONSIDERED ON A CASE BY CASE BASIS.

1. The candidate submits "Notification of Intention to Defend the Dissertation at Final Oral Defense Examination for the Ph.D. Degree" by the deadline noted above.

2. In addition, the candidate will provide an e-mail from each member of the Dissertation Oral Defense Committee stating their willingness to participate in the Summer Dissertation Oral Defense.

3. Upon receiving authorization from the Office of Doctoral Studies, Ph.D. candidates must register for **TI 8900 Dissertation Defense** during the Summer Term they wish to defend. ODS will assist the candidate as necessary.

Once approved, the Office of Doctoral Studies will authorize the candidate to submit their Defense Application upon successfully scheduling their defense with their committee.

Check the Teachers College Website for the Summer Term dates.

https://www.tc.columbia.edu/academics/academic-calendar/