September 2024

The Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences (E&ES) at Boston College (BC) offers graduate courses and research programs leading to

Two committee signatures are required for the M.S. thesis. Typically, one of these signatures comes from the student's primary advisor and the other from a member of the qualifying examination committee.

Following completion of the qualifying examination, Ph.D. students must form a thesis committee. This committee shall consist of three faculty members from E&ES (at least two of whom must be full-time tenured or tenure-track faculty members), plus one faculty member from outside the department. A professor of the practice, or a visiting or part-time faculty member can serve as one of the members

: Once a M.S. student has completed the required course work, they must register for 0-credit Interim Study (EESC8888) to officially remain enrolled in the program. Registration is routinely done by the department office, but students should verify their status with the department administrator. Failure to register for Interim Study may result in ineligibility for department fellowships and full-time student status.

but will occasionally be considered on a case-by-case basis. To use TRs for these courses, students must obtain approval from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences well in advance of the end of the drop/add period. Requests must be submitted to the E&ES Graduate Program Committee.

: Each graduate student is required to have a two-semester, college-level calculus course before completing their graduate degree. If deficient in this requirement, a student may still be admitted to the program, but must work with his/her advisory committee to plan how the deficiency will be made up by then end of the student's first academic year in the graduate program. Tuition Remission credits (TRs) generally cannot be used for courses numbered 3000 or below, but will occasionally be considered on a case-by-case basis. To use TRs for these courses, students must obtain approval from the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences well in advance of the end of the drop/add period. Requests must be submitted to the E&ES Graduate Program Committee.

: The Boston College Graduate School of Arts and Sciences does not allow graduate students to count courses taken pass/fail toward their graduate degree. The E&ES Department also prohibits graduate students from taking courses numbered less than 3000 on a pass/fail basis if those courses are being taken to make up undergraduate deficiencies. All courses taken by graduate students in the E&ES Department must be taken for a grade.

: Each graduate student may take no more than one R&R course as part of their graduate curriculum. During the second semester of a graduate student's first year, the student may take a three credit R&R with their primary advisor. The course will require two 10-page papers, including a literature review of the student's thesis topic, and the student will be required to make a presentation at the student colloquium in the spring. The student and advisor should agree to a course plan/contract during the first week of the semester and share this document with the Graduate Program Director. Exceptions to the second-semester requirement can be made on a case-by-case basis in consultation with the Graduate Program Committee.

: All graduate students are required to maintain a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better to remain in good academic standing in the graduate program. R&R courses and thesis seminars are not counted in this GPA requirement, but courses numbered less than 3000 taken to make up undergraduate deficiencies are counted in computing the student's GPA. If a student does not achieve a 3.0 GPA at any point during their graduate career, the E&ES Graduate Program Committee shall meet to consider the appropriate course of action, including placing the student on academic probation or dropping the student from the program. The final decision about academic probation or termination in the graduate program shall be made by the full department faculty.

: All graduate students who enter the program without an M.S. degree in an EESC-related field are required to take the graduate Earth Systems Seminar (GE669X) during their first fall semester in the graduate program.

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distributed to the other two qualifying examination committee members. If a student has not completed

4. Demonstrate acquired skills in appropriate field, laboratory, and/or quantitative methods.
5. Write and speak effectively to professional and lay audiences about issues in the field.
6. Teach effectively at the undergraduate level.

The following grades may be earned on the oral qualifying examination: pass or no pass. If a student earns a “no pass” grade, the student is allowed one chance to retake the comprehensive exam at a later date. The thesis advisory committee will issue a recommendation to the student in writing about what conditions apply to the reexamination when a student does not pass the first taking of the comprehensive exam. A copy of these recommendations should be provided to the Graduate Program Director and placed in the student’s

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their advisor and thesis advisory committee. Students must submit a defendable draft of the entire thesis to their thesis advisory committee and the Graduate Program Director one month prior to their defense. The defendable draft will be made available to all interested EESC faculty members in the department office. In conjunction with the submission of the defendable draft and scheduling of the defense, the student should recommend a chair of the thesis defense to the Graduate Program Director. The chair of the thesis defense is an EESC faculty member who is not a member of the thesis committee, but who is cognizant of the student's research field. The Chair reads the thesis, oversees the defense, and acts as a full committee participant in the thesis defense. Before submitting the defendable draft, a student must have successfully passed the comprehensive examination and completed all coursework required for the Ph.D. degree. A Thesis Defense Date and Chair Request Form (see Appendix G) must be filled out and signed by the advisor and Graduate Program Director along with submission of the defendable draft of the thesis.

The Ph.D. thesis defense consists of two parts: (1) a public presentation (normally about 45-50 minutes long) describing the results of part or all of the thesis research, followed by a brief public question and answer period (10-15 minutes long) presided over by the thesis defense chair, and (2) a private defense of the research results, also presided over by the thesis defense chair (normally 1-2 hours long). Interested faculty who have read the thesis may attend the private defense and ask questions of the student and participate in discussions following the examination. However, these individuals have no voting rights at the time that the thesis advisory committee finalizes its decision.

Following the period of questioning in the private defense, the student will retire from the room and the thesis committee and chair will discuss its recommendation. Following this discussion, each committee member will give the chair his/her final vote. The chair will record the final vote, together with comments, qualifications, and committee recommendations on thesis defense form. Successful defense of the thesis requires unanimous approval of the thesis committee. Following a successful defense, the chair of the Thesis Defense will transmit the committee's approval to the student, the Graduate Program Director, and the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

If the student does not defend his/her thesis successfully, the thesis defense chair will transmit this result in writing to the student and the Graduate Program Director. If the thesis defense results in a conditional pass,

committee to be present for the the Ń

comprehensive examination

All graduate students in the graduate program in the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences at Boston College are expected to follow all of the rules and regulations of Boston College and of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences. Graduate students are urged to pay particular attention to the following policies of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

: Graduate students in the graduate program of the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences are expected to carry out all of their graduate work following the highest standards of academic integrity. Acts of plagiarism, cheating on assignments or exams, knowingly falsifying data, or not properly crediting the work of others violate the accepted standards of academic scholarship and will not be tolerated. Violations of academic integrity standards shall be reported to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, whose procedures for dealing with such violations are given at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/gsas/policies.html#integrity.

: The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences requires each graduate student to maintain a GPA of 3.0 or better. This policy is given at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/gsas/policies.html#academic%20standing. The policy for grading graduate students in the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences is specified at http://www.bc.edu/publications/gcatalog/policy.shtml#grading. The policy of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences regarding grades in courses that are not completed by the end of the academic semester is given at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/gsas/policies.html#Incomplete. The policy of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences regarding pass/fail grades is specified at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/gsas/policies.html#Pass/Fail%20Options.

: Graduate students who have a grievance against a faculty member are urged to consult the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences grievance procedures for the recommended course of action that they should follow. These procedures can be found at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/gsas/policies.html#academic%20grievances.

: The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences specifies that graduate students are normally expected to complete their M.S. and Ph.D. degrees within five and eight years, respectively. This policy is specified at http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/gsas/policies.html#Time%20to%20Degree. The Graduate School of Arts and Sciences policy regarding leaves of absence is given at http://www.bc.edu/offices/stserv/academic/univcat/grad_catalog/grad_policies_procedures.html#leaveofabsence

: Graduate students who have completed some graduate-level

follows the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences rules regarding the transfer of graduate credits from another university, as given at https://www.bc.edu/bc-web/schools/mcas/graduate/current-students/policies-and-procedures.html

Appendix A.

NAME _____ DATE _____

B.C. ID# _____

YEARS IN PROGRAM _____

REQUESTED COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

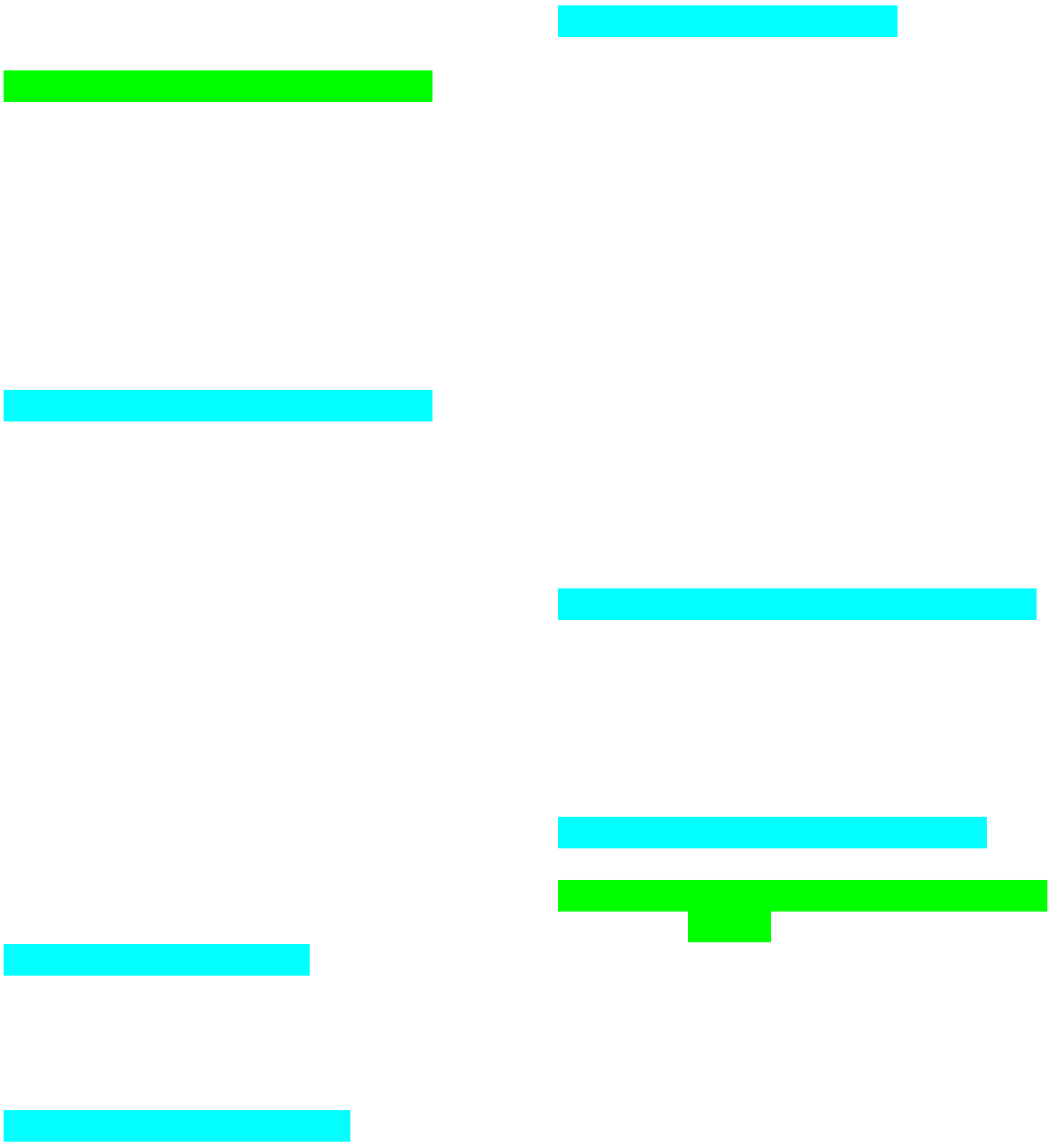
1. Thesis Advisor_____
2. Committee Member (M.S. thesis reader)_____
3. Committee Member _____
4. Outside Collaborator (if applicable)_____

Approved by:

Graduate Program Director_____Date_____

*Qualifying examination committees must consist of three faculty members with the chair being a tenured or tenure track faculty member in the department. A professor of the practice, or a visiting or part-time faculty member can serve as one of the members of the qualifying examination committee, but cannot act as the thesis advisor. One research collaborator from outside of the Department or BC can be a non-voting participant in the oral exam, as long as this is arranged ahead of time with the members of the qualifying exam committee. Qualifying examination committees must be approved by the department Graduate Program Committee by May of the student's first year in the

Appendix C. Course Categorization.



Upcoming Course Offerings: Blue – Fall 2024; Green – Spring 2025

Appendix D.

NAME _____ DATE _____

B.C. ID# _____

TITLE OF M.S. DEGREE_____

_____

INSTITUTION GRANTING M.S. DEGREE_____

M.S. DEGREE DATE_____

Approved by:

Ph.D. Advisor_____Date_____

Graduate Program Director_____Date_____

*Only applicable to incoming Ph.D. students with a M.S. degree in an EESC-related field. Waiver must be approved by the student’

Appendix E.

Name: _____
Date: _____
BC ID#:_____
I request my qualifying exam on: _____
(Please specify a date and time. The exam should last about 2 hours) b ò0
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Appendix F.

Name: _____
Date: _____
BC ID#:_____
I request my comprehensive exam on: _____
(Please specify a date and time. The exam should last about 2 hours)

The following days I am not available (because of teaching, classes, etc.)
DAY/TIME Reason

My Ph.D. Thesis Advisory Committee is:

Thesis Advisor: _____

E&ES Committee member: _____

E&ES Committee member: _____

External Committee member: _____

(Institution/Department): _____

My Proposed Ph.D. Thesis title is:

My thesis proposal is signed and on file in the office as of this date: YES_____ No_____

* Ph.D. thesis advisory committees must consist of three faculty members from E&ES and one faculty member from outside the EESC department. A

Appendix G.

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