

Department of Atmospheric Sciences

Policies on a failed thesis/dissertation defense examination

This policy applies to Department of Atmospheric Sciences (DAS) MS and PhD students who fail their thesis/dissertation defense examination (hereafter termed “the defense”). If a student does not pass the defense, the graduate student advisory committee (GSAC) members should attach a detailed report explaining the reasons why the student failed to the “Report on Thesis/Dissertation defense” form. The student should work with the GSAC to schedule a meeting of the student, GSAC, the DAS department chair, the Dean of the College, and the Dean of the Graduate School to determine how to proceed. The meeting should occur within two weeks of the defense examination. PhD students should have the external examiner attend this meeting. The goal of this meeting is to determine whether a second defense is appropriate, and if so how the students should prepare for the defense, and when the defense should occur. In the case of granting the student the opportunity to re-defend the thesis/dissertation, the normal process and time schedule for a defense will apply, with one exception; should this second defense be unsuccessful, the student will not have the opportunity to re-defend the thesis/dissertation again.