

GUIDELINES FOR THESIS DEFENCE COMMITTEES IN BIOINFORMATICS

I. General Overview:

For general information regarding the Ph.D. Thesis Defence Committee composition at the University of Guelph, see: <https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/degree-regulations/doctor-philosophy/> under 'Thesis'. For general information regarding the M.Sc. Advisory Committee composition at the University of Guelph, see: <https://calendar.uoguelph.ca/graduate-calendar/degree-regulations/masters-degree-thesis/> under 'Thesis'.

The specific requirements for the Bioinformatics Thesis Defence Committees are discussed below.

II. Ph.D. Thesis Defence Committee

The Chair of the defence committee (who must be a member of the Bioinformatics Program) is appointed by the Bioinformatics Director or their designate (usually the Graduate Program Coordinator). Two members from the Advisory Committee are selected by the Advisory Committee for the defence, one of whom must be a member of the Bioinformatics Program. The Advisory Committee also suggests an External Examiner (i.e., external to the University of Guelph) recommended by the Advisory Committee. The Graduate Program Coordinator selects a member of the Bioinformatics Program to act as the fifth and final defence committee member. The defence committee examiners should be a balance between expertise in biology and in informatics (e.g., computational, mathematical, and/or statistical proficiency) as much as is possible, with a **minimum** of at least one expert in each of these two areas.

III. M.Sc. Thesis Defence Committee

The Chair of the defence committee (who must be a member of the Bioinformatics Program) is appointed by the Bioinformatics Director or their designate (usually the Graduate Program Coordinator). The Advisory committee selects one member of the Advisory Committee (normally the Advisor), and suggests a second examiner, who may be a member of the Advisory Committee. The Graduate Program Coordinator selects a member of the Bioinformatics Program to act as the fourth and final defence committee member. The defence committee examiners should be a balance between expertise in biology and in informatics (e.g., computational, mathematical, and/or statistical proficiency) as much as is possible, with a **minimum** of at least one expert in each of these two areas. The defence committee must also consist of at least two examiners that are members of the Bioinformatics Program.