



DNP and PhD Final Defense Guide & Checklist

Fall 2026

November 23, 2026: Last day to hold a final oral defense

December 8, 2026 : Last day to submit to ProQuest/Grad College

Final Defense Checklist

Note: students must have an approved Proposal Defense on file before they can schedule their Final Oral Defense.

- **Step One:** submit the "Intent to Defend" form ASAP. No need for a confirmed date/time initially, but inform the Doctoral Advisor once confirmed at con-osaa@arizona.edu.
- **Step Two:** coordinate a final defense date and time with your committee. OSAA will arrange the Zoom meeting and/or room reservation.
- **Step Three:** send **Melinda Burns** (gmfletch@arizona.edu) your final document for formatting pre-review no later than one month prior to your defense date.
- **Step Four:** submit the GradPath "Announcement of Final Oral Defense" form at least two weeks before your defense date once you have a confirmed date/time.
- **Step Five:** Contact Dr. Alice Pasvogel (apasv@arizona.edu) regarding your project conclusion with the IRB.

**OSAA is required to arrange your Zoom
and/or room reservation**

Questions? Contact OSAA
(con-osaa@arizona.edu)

Additional Information

- Students must submit their GradPath form, "Announcement of Final Oral Defense," before the defense date or the defense will be invalid
- The GradPath Form, "Announcement of Final Oral Defense": if you are holding a virtual meeting, for the building, put "Nursing" and for the room put "Zoom"
- You must complete your Portfolio before your Final Defense
PhD Students, click [HERE](#) for more information
DNP Students, click [HERE](#) for more information
- The Final Defense must be held Monday - Friday, between the hours of 8:00AM and 5:00PM (Arizona Time) and cannot be held on a University holiday
- For the CON Power Point Presentation Template, click [HERE](#)
- Questions about clinical hours or Exxat?
Contact con-compliance@arizona.edu
- Want information on CON's Convocation policy? Click [HERE](#)
- The Graduate College maintains [instructions on submitting your DNP Project or Dissertation](#).

Remember: you got this and OSAA is here to help!

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and/or room reservation***

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