

A PhD supervisory committee must consist of at least three members, who meet the following requirements:

- Supervisor: Must be appointed in the Department of Sociology and must be a Full or Emeritus member of the School of Graduate Studies.*
- Co-supervisor, if any: Must be appointed in the Department of Sociology and must be a Full, Associate, or Emeritus member of the School of Graduate Studies.*
- Other committee members: Must be Full, Associate, or Emeritus members of the School of Graduate Studies, but their appointments may be in other departments of the university.*

In addition, a PhD supervisory committee may, in special cases, also include an external expert as an “advisor” (this term is not synonymous with “supervisor”) when this person provides special expertise not available within the university. Advisors may take part in all the student’s committee meetings with the following limitations:

- They do not contribute to a quorum.
- They may not vote in the student's Final Oral Examination, although they are permitted to attend as a Qualified Observer. Qualified Observers may enter the room when the Candidate enters, and may observe the presentation and questioning, but must leave before the committee’s discussion about the examination begins.

A request for an external expert to serve as an advisor on a PhD committee must be made to the Associate Graduate Chair, with a rationale and the CV of the proposed advisor. Students and supervisors: Make the most of your supervisory relationships by using the resources found on the [Supervision Guidelines](#) page.

****Students should consider talking with their supervisor to bring in a potential non-U of T faculty member as their external appraiser at the time of their Final Oral Exam rather than going through the request of adding a non-U of T faculty member as an advisor on their supervisory committee.**