

Trent University  
Frost Centre for Canadian Studies and Indigenous Studies

**Guidelines for Supervision of PhD Dissertations and Comprehensives**

1. **Comprehensive examination committees** consist of a supervisor, normally from the home institution, and two other faculty members from the Trent or Carleton graduate faculty. Comprehensive examinations provide an opportunity to demonstrate a detailed knowledge of the relevant literature within two of the PhD research foci (Culture, Literature and the Arts; Environment and Heritage; Policy, Economy and Society; Identities; Women's Studies). These research areas are meant to be broad-ranging, exposing students to significant works related to Canadian Studies. If a student and their supervisor suggests another broad-ranging field of scholarship for a comprehensive, such as Indigenous-Settler Relations, they can do so, offering a rationale and reading list to be approved by the Director.
2. By the time they have finished their comprehensives, each student must have a **dissertation advisory committee** consisting of a dissertation supervisor and at least two other faculty members. Both universities must be represented on the dissertation advisory committee. A student may make a special request to the Director of the Frost Centre to have an extra member added to the Dissertation Advisory Committee.
3. Comprehensive and dissertation committees should include faculty from at least two disciplines or programs and students should not use the same comprehensive supervisor and committee members for both sets of comprehensives.
4. Thesis and Comprehensive supervisors must be tenured professors, regular members of the Frost Centre and named to the Trent or Carleton graduate faculty. They should have a PhD, hold the rank of Assistant Professor or higher, and indicate an ongoing commitment to research, as indicated by scholarly publishing and presentations. The remaining committee members should also hold PhDs, be in tenure-track positions and be members of the Trent or Carleton graduate faculty. The comprehensive committees and dissertation advisory committees must be approved by the Director of the Frost Centre.
5. In the event of the absence of the supervisor or committee members for more than 6 months, temporary or permanent replacements must be named and consulted, and the Frost Centre Director informed of such replacements.
6. In the event of student dissatisfaction with the composition or performance of the comprehensive or dissertation committee, the Frost Centre Director should be consulted. When the supervisor in question is the Director, the Dean of Graduate Studies should be consulted.