

Thesis Committee Structure

Barrett Thesis Committee Standards

A Thesis/Creative Project committee is comprised of a Director and Second Committee Member who collaborate with their student(s) on a regular basis, determine project goals and outcomes, and evaluate the final work.

Director: Any member of ASU faculty with professional expertise in the project area. (This excludes graduate students.)

Second Committee Member: A member of the ASU faculty/staff with professional expertise in the project area, or a qualified local professional who works outside of ASU and has experience with the project area. May not be an undergraduate peer or a direct relative of the student.

Third Committee Member: OPTIONAL, at the recommendation of the Director. May be an ASU faculty/staff member or community member. May be outside of the state if approved for External Examiner Funding.

See below for units with unique requirements outside of the Barrett Committee Standards. Individual Directors may also require unique standards for the thesis committee based on the goal of the final project. Students must consult with their Director to identify disciplinary specific committee expectations.

Second Committee Member

Academic units with department specific expectations for the Second Committee Member include:

Second Committee Member must be an ASU faculty (lecturer or tenure-line faculty only):

- Art
- Material Science Engineering
- Philosophy
- Nursing (includes regular faculty or adjunct)

Second Committee Member must be ASU faculty with exceptions approved by the Faculty Honors Advisor (FHA):

- Human Communication – any HDSHC faculty or other faculty with terminal degrees
- Marketing – May include faculty from institutions outside of ASU
- Teachers College – Must be regular or clinical faculty from ASU except by approval from FHA

Unique Second Committee Member expectations:

- Biochemistry, Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry – Director and Second Committee member must be tenure-track. (Note – lecturers not approved for Director or Second Committee Member.)
- Life Sciences – Second Committee Member can be ASU or non-ASU faculty and qualified professionals (including graduate students with approval from Director).
- Psychology – All committee members should have PhDs and be research active, prefer faculty. (Note – Director should be tenure-line faculty.)

Third Committee Member

Third Committee Members are often optional, but always encouraged. Academic units that require a Third Committee Member include:

- Biochemistry, Chemistry, Medicinal Chemistry – Must have a PhD; does not have to be faculty, but cannot be a subordinate of either of the other two members (e.g. postdoctoral fellow or research professor in the same research group).
- Psychology – For the PSY track all three committee members should have PhDs and be research active; at least one committee member should provide an independent perspective on the project. Consult with FHA for PSY approval through the Psychology Thesis Track or PSY non-track option.