

October 2012: Policy Regarding Eligibility for External Readers for Graduate Theses

An adjunct professor or other individual who has previously taught the student in a graduate level course, or who has been involved with the student's graduate-level research, cannot serve as an external reader for this student. This is also the case if they taught the student at the undergraduate level within the last four years. Furthermore, it is inappropriate to appoint an external reader who has worked in a collaborative research relationship or co-authored publications with the student's supervisor within the last two years. If these circumstances hold for an intended external examiner, the onus is on the supervisor to explain why this individual is the only reasonable choice. The final decision rests with the Dean of Research and Graduate Studies, in consultation with the appropriate graduate coordinator (or unit head/director, where the graduate coordinator is the supervisor).