The Graduate Program Committee specifies the coursework the student must complete, the qualifying examinations (written, oral, or both) the student must pass, the conditions under which the student may retake all or part of a qualifying examination, and the procedures the student must follow in developing a dissertation proposal.

In consultation with the graduate advisor, the student proposes a Dissertation Committee to advise or direct the student on the research and writing of the dissertation. The student selects the chair of the Dissertation Committee, with the consent of that person and permission of the academic College, and the Dean of the Graduate School.