Publication Requirement for Ph.D. Degree
Pharmacology and Molecular Cancer Biology Graduate Training Programs

The process of writing a scholarly document on research performed by our students, having that document reviewed by experts in the field, and then undertaking experiments to address reviewers concerns is an important educational experience that is the mainstay of our discipline. Moreover, such an important scholarly achievement that is peer reviewed by an external field of experts also serves as an independent gauge that our students have reached an important milestone in their training. As such, all students must have one first-authored (shared first authorship is acceptable), primary research paper (excluding reviews, commentaries, etc) in press or published (this excludes in preparation, submitted, under revision, or conditionally accepted) PRIOR to asking permission to defend their thesis.

Recognizing that there could be extenuating circumstances, a student can write to the Chair of the Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology to request permission to defend without meeting this requirement. This request must be first approved by the thesis committee by the same majority required to pass a thesis defense. The chair must then immediately assemble an ad hoc committee to review this request. This committee must be comprised of the chair, both the PI and DGS of the relevant degree-granting program, and one other professor (Assistant, Associate, or Professor) from the opposite degree-granting program (e.g. from Pharm for an MCB student or from MCB for a Pharm student) within the Department of Pharmacology and Cancer Biology that has graduated a Ph.D. or M.D./Ph.D. student within the last 5 years. This committee is empowered to seek further information from the student, mentor, or thesis committee. This ad hoc review committee must make a decision with regards to granting an exception within two weeks of the student submitting the request. The decision must be a majority decision, with the chair of the department given veto power.