**PhD DEPTH EXAMINATION**

**PURPOSE**
During the depth exam, the student demonstrates depth of knowledge in their research area through a public seminar and oral examination, any weak areas are identified and recommendations are made as the student progresses toward the thesis proposal and thesis defence.

**TIMING**
The depth examination generally takes place between the fifth and seventh semester. Before scheduling the exam, the student’s breadth requirements must be complete and the breadth evaluation form must be submitted and approved.

**EXAMINING COMMITTEE**
The examining committee consists of the supervisory committee and one or two additional examiners.

**DEPTH EXAM PROCEDURES**
The examining committee, in consultation with the student, specifies the topics prior to the examination. The student prepares a written survey and gives a public depth seminar (15 – 30 minutes); an oral examination follows. The committee meets to evaluate the student’s performance in the program to that point. The committee’s evaluation is diagnostic, specifying additional work in weak areas if such exists. A second depth examination or withdrawal from the program may be recommended in extreme cases.

**STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES**
Notifying the Graduate Program Assistant (GPA) at least two weeks before the intended examination date

Emailing the GPA the completed evaluation to csgrada@sfu.ca form at least ten days before the exam date. The template is available at:
https://www.sfu.ca/computing/current-students/graduate-students/forms.html

Printing and providing the evaluation form to the senior supervisor at the exam.

**GPA RESPONSIBILITIES**
Booking the room for your depth exam
Reviewing and approving the evaluation form prior to the exam
Announcing the exam to the Computing Science Community via email
Ensuring this requirement is updated as ‘complete’ in the student’s record.