

**TEXAS TECH UNIVERSITY
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT AND FAMILY STUDIES GRADUATE PROGRAMS
HDFS DOCTORAL DEGREE**

DOCTORAL COMMITTEE

The doctoral (advisory) committee is formed by the student after completing the Preliminary Examination. This committee consists of a chairperson (who may or may not be the student's original academic advisor) and two or three other members of the graduate faculty, one of whom must come from within the department and one of whom may be (but does not have to be) appointed from outside the department.

Students are responsible for choosing all three or four of their committee members as well as requesting that the chair serve. Students should meet with several faculty members to determine the best match. After ascertaining the chair, the student and chair review the student's suggestions for other members of the committee. When an agreement is reached between the student and chair, then the student will ask the committee members (in person, followed by a memo) if they will serve on his or her committee. After they have consented, the chair then recommends the committee (via memo) to the Graduate Dean. A letter from the Graduate Dean will be sent to the members of the committee as a formal request to serve in directing the student's research.

The doctoral committee will meet as often as necessary with the student and will direct his or her work at all stages. Either the chair or the co-chair of a student's committee must be a regular member of the department or program faculty from which the student will receive the doctorate.

A student should see his/her advisor for the proper procedures when changing a committee member after he or she is in the latter stages of the doctoral program.