

Panther ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Proposed Topic: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Non-Thesis Committee Requires Two Members**

Committee Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signatures**

Committee Chair: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Committee Member: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Student: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Director of Graduate Studies: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Students in the Direct Admit PhD program must complete an MA-in-passing by the end of their second year in the program. Beyond coursework, students must write and have approved by a committee of two faculty a non-thesis paper. The non-thesis paper should be a research paper presenting original research, extended and enhanced to meet the standards of a conference paper presentation. These standards include a statement of the problem, questions or hypotheses raised by the problem, and original research on that problem and relevant questions. Non-thesis papers are normally 20 to 40 pages in length and should address an important problem, reflect knowledge of the relevant literature as it pertains to the questions, and provide preliminary answers based on competent research to the questions raised by the problem. Committees will evaluate this non-thesis paper in terms of the student's ability to identify a research question, articulate a theory and derive testable hypotheses, and then design and execute a suitable research design to test these hypotheses and, ultimately, to determine the student's suitability to continuing in the PhD program.