Aerospace Engineering
Graduate Student Timeline

Committee Selection:
   The committee shall consist of at least four members.
   At least three members must have a Ph.D. in an appropriate field.
   At least two members must be tenured or tenure track Cal Poly Aero faculty.
   The committee chair must be a tenured or tenure track Cal Poly Aero faculty.
   At least one member must come from outside the Cal Poly Aero department.
   The outside member must be approved by the Cal Poly Aero department

Topic Proposal:
   At the time of committee selection, the graduate student will give a short
   (~30 min) presentation proposing his/her research topic. It is the responsibility of
   the student to schedule a time acceptable to the committee. Any committee member
   may choose to withdraw at this time. The proposal does not need to be repeated for
   any changes in the committee, however, it is the student’s responsibility to ensure
   any new committee members are familiar with the topic.

Seminar:
   After the topic proposal and before the defense, the student will present
   his/her research to the Aerospace Engineering graduate seminar. Contact the
   Graduate Coordinator to schedule your presentation. The committee should attend
   and provide feedback.

Thesis draft:
   The student should provide the committee chair with a draft of the thesis four
   weeks before the intended defense date. It is the student’s responsibility to
   incorporate any feedback given by the committee chair in a timely manner.

Scheduling the Defense:
   The thesis defense will happen no sooner than 2 Quarters after the topic
   proposal and 1 Quarter after the Seminar. The student will schedule the defense with
   the committee at least two weeks in advance. The student will provide the
   committee with a revised draft at this time.

Defense Announcement:
   One week before the defense, the student will post announcements inviting
   the public to the thesis defense. The announcement will specify the research topic
   and time & place of the defense. The announcements will be posted at the
   department office, at the entry to the building, at the conference room, etc.

Thesis Defense:
   The student will give a formal presentation (~1hr) followed by questions and
   answers by the public and then by the committee.

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