MSc-to-PhD Reclassification Examinations are completed by MSc students who wish to enter the PhD program without first completing their MSc degree.

CRITERIA FOR RECLASSIFICATION:

- Application for Reclassification within 12 to 18 months of MSc enrolment
- Minimum of an A- average in all required MSc courses
- Written support of Supervisor and Supervisory Committee to the Graduate Coordinator
- Reclassification form completed and sign-off by the Graduate Coordinator

EXAMINATION:

☐ The Research Proposal

A written proposal of doctoral research is required for the examination.

Suggested Headings:

i. Literature Review with References
ii. Research Questions
iii. Hypotheses (optional)
iv. Methods
v. Importance of the Research to the Field of Rehabilitation

The proposal length will generally be 20 double-spaced pages maximum (excluding references tables and figures), unless otherwise determined by the Supervisory Committee. The proposal will be submitted to all examination members and the RSI graduate administrator 2 weeks prior to oral exam.

☐ Examination Committee

The examination committee for the reclassification examination consists of the following members:

1. Chair (appointed by the graduate coordinator)
   a. Oversees the examination proceedings
   b. Does not need to review research proposal in advance
   c. Does not vote

2. Supervisor

3. Minimum of two Supervisory Committee Members

4. One External Member who has SGS status or equivalent, and who may or may not be a RSI member. The external member of the examining committee may not have collaborated with the supervisor or members of the Supervisory Committee. The external member is chosen by consensus of the supervisor and RSI graduate coordinator.

☐ Procedure of the Oral Examination

   STEP 1: Committee gathers while student leaves the room
   STEP 2: General comments are presented
   STEP 3: Student then proceeds with their 20-minute Oral Presentation
   STEP 4: Followed by two rounds of questions (10 minutes allotted to each examiner)
**STEP 5:** Student leaves room again while the committee evaluates

**STEP 6:** Student returns and the Chair reports the results of the evaluation to the student

**EVALUATION:**

Results of the evaluation may fall into one of four categories:

1. **Approved** as presented
2. **Minor Correction** to research proposal required
   - Amendment(s) approved by Supervisor within one week*
3. **Minor Revisions** to research proposal required
   - Amendment(s) approved by Supervisory Committee within one month*
4. **Major Revisions** to research proposal required
   - Student not approved for Reclassification into the Doctorate program

**RESULTS:**

Results of the MSc-to-PhD Reclassification Proposal Defense will be reported to the RSI Office by the Chair of the Evaluation Committee using the **Reclassification Examination Form**. The successful candidate is eligible to enter the PhD program at the beginning of the next admission cycle.