The candidacy phase comprises the preparation and defense of the dissertation proposal, doctoral dissertation and final defense of the dissertation.

Upon advancement to candidacy, each student is required to have a Dissertation Committee consisting of at least three faculty members (including at least two members of the Wharton graduate group), which may include the Supervisor/Advisor. The Dissertation Committee meets at least once annually with the student to review the student’s progress. The student prepares an Annual Dissertation Progress Report. A copy of the signed progress report is submitted to the Supervisor/Advisor and Graduate Group Chair.

Dissertations based on joint work with other researchers are allowed, provided that, in such cases, a unique and separate dissertation is presented by each degree candidate. The candidate must include a concise account of his or her contribution to the whole work. Authorship of a dissertation by more than one degree candidate is not allowed.

For those of you who are entering the candidacy phase of your program, you will need to submit a formal letter/email to Itay Goldstein, PhD Program Coordinator, requesting to be considered for candidacy. In your request, you should outline who you have selected to be on your Dissertation Committee (designate the Chair). You should also confirm that all your requirements outlined above have been successfully fulfilled. The Finance Department Ph.D. Coordinator will review your request and upon his approval, submit it to the Vice Dean of the Wharton Doctoral Programs for final review and approval.