

Roles and Responsibilities of the Co-Supervisor(s)

In the case where a doctoral student will have two co-supervisors, the co-supervisor who will be assuming the primary responsibility for the fulfillment of AU policies must be a full-time, continuing tenured (or tenure track) faculty member at Athabasca University. In all instances, the co-supervisors must work together cooperatively to provide an environment for the student that is conducive to research and in which the student can grow intellectually. Below are the role descriptions for the co-supervisory model, should this model of supervision be adopted:

The AU Co-Supervisor will:

- Serve as the external co-supervisor's liaison to AU and the Faculty/Centre program office.
- Be familiar with the policies and regulations within the AU Faculty/Centre and the Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS).
- Work jointly with the external co-supervisor to construct an academic plan (program of study), establish a timeline and goals with the student at the beginning of the relationship, and assist and advise the student with his or her application to the AU Research Ethics Board, if appropriate.
- Determine jointly with the external supervisor when the student is ready to proceed to the candidacy exam, when the dissertation is ready for distribution to all committee members, and when the student is ready for the final oral defence.

The External Co-Supervisor will:

- Provide support to the student in the form of enhancement of ideas, research methodology and assistance in the completion of the proposal and of the dissertation.
- Work jointly with the AU co-supervisor to construct an academic plan (program of study), establish a timeline and goals with the student at the beginning of the relationship, and assist and advise the student with his or her application to the au research ethics board, if appropriate.
- Review draft copies of the dissertation proposal prior to the candidacy exam and of the dissertation prior to the dissertation defence and advise the AU co-supervisor and the program director as to whether or not the student is ready to defend his/her proposal and final dissertation.
- Be available to student(s) on a regular basis, responding to specific academic questions and issues from the student(s) via email, fax, telephone and databases as appropriate.