

Attributions: Portions of this draft were taken from *The Doctor of Philosophy Degree: A Policy Statement* (Council of Graduate Schools, 2005) and *Openness in Research*, Stanford University Research Policy Handbook, Document 2.6, 2001.

DRAFT: FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

OPENNESS OF THESES AND DISSERTATIONS

The University of North Texas, as a member of the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS), ascribes to the fundamental tenant on openness and access of theses and dissertation research as stated in the CGS policy manual *The Doctor of Philosophy Degree: A Policy Statement* (CGS, 2005). In compliance with CGS, it is the policy at the University of North Texas that “an essential aspect of [thesis] and dissertation research and scholarship is the free and full dissemination of research results. Restrictions, either in the conduct of [thesis] and dissertation research or in the sharing of its results, are antithetical to that spirit.” Therefore, “research that is classified by a government agency or that is proprietary in nature and restricted with regard to publication is unsuitable for master’s or doctoral research “(CGS, 2005, pp. 29-30).

Faculty advisors of students conducting thesis and dissertation research shall advise their students and abide by the following:

1. If the faculty director of the thesis or dissertation is covered by a nondisclosure agreement, if either the faculty director and/or the student know in advance that the work is proprietary, or if at the time the topic of the thesis or dissertation is set, there is any other substantial possibility that the work will lead to a thesis or dissertation that is restricted, the student cannot include this work as part of the thesis or dissertation.
2. In the process of the student’s thesis or dissertation research, the student is developing a patentable work, the Research and Technology Transfer office must be notified as soon as possible and the utility patent filed so as to allow an open defense and publication of the thesis or dissertation.
3. In the circumstances in which the thesis or dissertation is close to completion or has been completed and a patentable work was unforeseen, the defense examination will be open only to the student’s committee and departmental faculty and the thesis or dissertation held from publication until the utility patent has been filed or for no longer than 90 days after the defense examination, whichever is the shorter time period, unless Research and Technology Transfer requests an additional limited period of time for the utility patent.