Second-year Paper
UF Finance Doctoral Students

Doctoral students are required to write a research paper, on a topic of their own choosing, that is due on the first day of the fall semester in the student’s third year of study. The paper must be a complete research document, such as one reads in academic finance journals. Depending on a student’s past experience, it may be appropriate to view this paper as suitable for submission to a journal. However, an acceptable second-year paper need not be publishable. Neither should it be viewed as the first step in selecting a dissertation topic.

An acceptable second-year paper will expostit an interesting finance question, collect appropriate data to test relevant hypotheses (if the paper is empirical, which most are), undertake careful econometric analysis of the data, and interpret the results. The purpose of this exercise is for the student to learn how to identify a researchable topic and execute it. As such, papers replicating or extending existing work are acceptable.

Students must present (defend) their second year papers during the first month of the semester they are submitted. This presentation constitutes the oral examination required by the Graduate School for admission to candidacy, and hence will be evaluated by the student’s supervisory committee.