Thesis/Dissertation committees must take adequate steps to ensure appropriate guidance of off-campus research. As a minimal requirement, the student must submit to the committee a well-formulated research plan, including objectives and methodology, and the committee must review and approve the plan before the student departs for the research site and indicate approval on the program of study. In addition, the committee may require the following.

1. The major professor and/or a competent local authority who can reliably guide the student provide continuing on-site supervision.
2. The student provides the dissertation committee with frequent, periodic estimates of performance and progress. The committee may also require that these be authenticated by a competent local authority.
3. The major professor carries out local inspections of the student’s activities.

Regardless of the location at which the research is conducted, the thesis/dissertation defense will normally be given on the Statesboro campus. Exceptions can be made if requested by the student, recommended by the dissertation committee, and approved by the Graduate Program Director, School or Department Chair, and the College of Graduate Studies. In the case of a defense or examination in which the participants are not all in the same location, any technology used to conduct the examination must support simultaneous oral interaction between the student and all members of the committee. When unusual circumstances arise in the guidance of off-campus students, dissertation committees should consult with the College of Graduate Studies.

Research conducted outside an academic program cannot be accepted for credit as part of a program of study.