Ph.D. QUALIFYING EXAM: Recommended CMB Procedure

Policy from the graduate manual
http://www.uri.edu/gsadmis/graduate_manual/degree_requirements.html#section755
(Version as of March 2014) 7.55.1 General: Students without a master’s degree who are accepted into a Ph.D. program are expected to take a qualifying examination during their first two academic semesters. This examination is intended to assess a student's potential to perform satisfactorily at the doctoral level, and shall not consist of courses taken unless specific approval has been granted by the Graduate Council. If granted, the courses shall be listed in the University of Rhode Island Catalog. The type of examination to be used, whether it is to be written or oral, or both, and the preparation and administration of the examination(s) are the responsibilities of the Graduate Program Director in consultation with 1) a departmental committee designed for this purpose or 2) with the major professor. The procedure used for giving qualifying examinations shall be incorporated into the departmental procedure given to each new student and filed with the Dean of the Graduate School. Written qualifying examinations should be, in general, scheduled for a minimum of four hours and oral examinations a minimum of two hours. Both the student and the Dean of the Graduate School will be informed promptly of the results of the examination(s) in accordance with the procedure described in 7.70. A student who fails the examination may be permitted one re-examination in the part or parts failed if re-examination is recommended by the examiners and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. The second examination may be taken only after an interval of ten weeks has passed, but before one year has elapsed.

Ph.D. Qualifying Exam for students in the CMB specialization within the BES program

The exam will consist of five parts. Each part will have two questions. The student will select and answer one of the two questions in each part. All students will take parts 1, 2, & 3*. Parts 4 & 5 will be designed for individual students.

*Students who have taken these courses (or their equivalents) as part of their undergraduate studies or have not taken these courses, may substitute other courses for parts 1, 2, or 3, as appropriate, and with the approval of their doctoral committee.

Part 1: Two questions based on material/concepts typically covered in BCH 581.

Part 2: Two questions based on material/concepts typically covered in BCH 582.

Part 3: Two questions based on material/concepts typically covered in MIC 413.
Part 4: Two questions relating to an area or course deemed particularly appropriate to that student. The subject matter to be tested will derive from elective courses from the student’s particular degree track.

- The student and the major professor would confer and decide on the appropriate course or area. (The major professor would have final say.)
- Whenever possible, the questions would be provided by someone other than the major professor.

Part 5: Two questions supplied by the major professor covering some aspect of biochemistry, microbiology, molecular biology, cell biology, etc. that the major professor deems relevant to the student’s graduate program. NOTE: The intent here is not to test the student on specifics relating directly to their research project; rather to assess their knowledge in an area relevant to the track they are in. The question need not be derived from subject matter of any particular course.

Students are strongly encouraged to meet with those faculty submitting questions for the exam well in advance so that there is a clear understanding of expectations in preparation for the exam.

Students must pass all five parts of the exam. A student who fails the examination may be permitted one re-examination in the part or parts failed if re-examination is recommended by the examiners and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. The second examination may be taken only after an interval of ten weeks has passed, but before one year has elapsed. The results of the exam should be examined by the student’s committee to determine if the student is qualified to continue in the doctoral program.