

Ph.D. QUALIFYING EXAM: EES Procedure

Policy from the graduate manual

http://www.uri.edu/gsadmis/graduate_manual/degree_requirements.html#section755

(Version 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.

EES guidelines for administering the exam

When a qualifying examination is required, the student shall be notified by email by their major professor at the time of admission. The examination shall be oral, no more than two hours in length, and administered by the student's Doctoral Committee, with the major professor serving as Chair. At least three weeks prior to the examination, the student shall deliver to all members of the Doctoral Committee (1) a program of study, including grades in courses already completed; (2) an outline of potential dissertation research topics; (3) a statement of the student's professional goals; and (4) a self-assessment identifying strengths and weaknesses in both knowledge and skills required for successful completion of the proposed research program.

During the examination, the Doctoral Committee shall evaluate the accuracy of the student's self-assessment, identify additional areas of weakness, and determine whether the student is capable of performing satisfactorily at the doctoral level.

The decision on whether the student has passed or failed the exam shall be based on the majority vote of the student's Doctoral Committee. The result of the exam is reported using a form available from the graduate school (<http://www.uri.edu/gsadmis/GradFormsPage.html>)

If the student is deemed capable of performing satisfactorily at the doctoral level, the Doctoral Committee may recommend specific measures (e.g., additional coursework or training) for overcoming any weaknesses. The major professor shall prepare a brief written summary of these recommendations and submit them to the student within one week (cc the EES coordinator, BES director, and doctoral committee).