

## **6.3. QUALIFYING AND COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATIONS (predates May 1, 2024)**

Qualifying and Comprehensive Examinations are not required components of Master's programs. When a qualifying examination and/or a comprehensive examination is required by the unit for a Master's program, it must be an approved component of the degree requirements.

The Ph.D. Qualifying and/or Comprehensive Examination may be in written and/or oral form. Each academic unit shall establish and make available clear, written and specific regulations regarding the Qualifying and Comprehensive Examinations.

The student's Advisory Committee shall inform the student in writing at least 60 days in advance that a Qualifying or Comprehensive Examination is to take place, and they shall provide in detail:

1. The means of assessment to be used in evaluating the student's knowledge of the field,
2. The relative grading weight of each means of assessment to be used, and
3. The criteria on which assessment will be based.

The CGPS must always be advised of the results of a Qualifying or Comprehensive Examination on a pass/fail basis.

A student failing a Qualifying or Comprehensive Examination is permitted a second Examination with permission of the Dean of the CGPS or designate. A second failure automatically disqualifies the student from further work for that particular Ph.D. degree. This failure may be appealed to the Graduate Academic Affairs Committee on substantive or procedural grounds.

In all cases, unless the student and the CGPS are informed otherwise in advance, the Examining Board for all written and/or oral components of the Qualifying or Comprehensive Examination will be all members of the Advisory Committee.

### **6.3.1. THE QUALIFYING EXAMINATION**

The purpose of the Qualifying Examination, which should be completed in the first year of the student's program, is to satisfy the academic unit the student has the potential to obtain sufficient knowledge of the chosen general field of study to proceed toward candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. The content of the examination shall fairly and reasonably reflect material which the student could be expected to know and understand in view of the prevalent and current norms of the discipline and the student's chosen area of research.

The Oral Examination (defence) for the award of the Master's degree at this or other recognized universities may, at the discretion of the academic unit and the CGPS, be accepted in lieu of the Qualifying Examination.

### **6.3.2. THE COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION**

The purpose of the Comprehensive Examination is to determine whether the student has a mature and substantive grasp of the field as a whole. Normally this examination is scheduled after the student has completed all course requirements and before beginning the doctoral research and thesis. The exam is on topics cognate to the candidate's field of research. A student passing the Comprehensive Examination is deemed a Ph.D. candidate.

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