

Instructions To Candidacy Examining Committee

Purpose of Candidacy Examination

The candidacy examination is comprehensive and addresses the qualifications of the doctoral graduate student in terms of her/his ability to pursue and complete original research at an advanced level. The purpose of the exam is to assess the breadth of the candidate's knowledge in her/his general field of research, the candidate's knowledge of the technical aspects of the proposed thesis research and the candidate's reasoning and critical thinking abilities.

Candidacy Exam Document

To provide a foundation from which the Candidacy Examining Committee can frame their questions during the candidacy exam, the graduate student will prepare a written summary of his/her proposed thesis research. The Candidacy Examining Committee is to consider the thesis proposal as a starting point for the examination. The candidacy examination is not a defence of the thesis proposal, however the student's understanding of the proposed research and experimental methods will be assessed.

Evaluation Criteria

FGSR stipulates that the graduate students must demonstrate "an adequate knowledge of the discipline and of the subject matter relevant to the thesis; and, the ability to pursue and complete original research at an advanced level." Members of the Candidacy Examining Committee will evaluate the graduate student against the following four general criteria:

- a. The graduate student has demonstrated effective written and verbal communication skills;
For example,
 - The graduate student answered questions with confidence and authority;
- b. The graduate student demonstrated an adequate knowledge of the scientific and technical concepts and principles in areas relevant to the proposed thesis;
- c. The graduate student demonstrated the critical thinking skills required to conduct original research; and
For example,
 - The graduate student demonstrated understanding of how experimental design can be used to test hypotheses;
 - The graduate student demonstrated good problem-solving/reasoning skills;
- d. The graduate student demonstrated an understanding of the significance and relevance of their proposed research.