

ENVIRONMENTAL ENGINEERING

Ph.D. QUALIFYING EXAMINATION PROCEDURES

1. The purpose of this examination is to evaluate Ph.D. students after they have completed the first 15 credit hours and prior to completing the first 30 credit hours of doctoral level course work in the Ph.D. program, while maintaining a good standing status. All students pursuing the Ph.D. degree must take this examination. A student who passes the examination will subsequently be referred to as a Ph.D. candidate.
2. It is the responsibility of the student to make sure that he or she takes the qualifying examination in a timely manner. Failure to take the qualifying examination within the stipulated time-frame will cause the student to lose good academic standing status with the department and could lead to termination from the program.

The EVEN Doctoral Qualifying Examination Committee will develop the qualifying examination, as an in-class examination, and notify the College of Graduate Studies about the timeline of the examination. The examination will be conducted twice every year - early January and early August.

3. The qualifying examination will consist of six questions covering fundamental concepts of environmental engineering, including but not limited to material covered in the core courses offered in the environmental engineering department. The examination will be of six hours duration (approximately 1 hour per question) and follow open-book examination format. The examination committee, will grade the examination within one month. The written examination will be followed by an oral interview with the student where the committee will review the results of the examination. The committee will identify the strengths and weaknesses of the student and make recommendations with regards to additional coursework, if needed.
4. After the interview, the Graduate Committee will inform the student whether he/she has passed the examination. Upon passing the qualifying examination, the student will select an advisory committee consisting of at least five members including the advisor. At least one, but no more than two faculty members, can be from outside the program. The student will also request the College of Graduate Studies to assign a Graduate Council Representative (GCR) for the remainder of his/her doctoral program.
5. Appropriate documentation will be filed with the department and the College of Graduate Studies as to whether the student passes or fails the qualifying examination. Possible examination outcomes are that the student:
 - a) Passes unconditionally;
 - b) Fails, with or without option to retake the qualifying exam
6. If the Ph.D. student fails with option to retake, he/she may be allowed to take the qualifying examination once more before completing 30 semester credit hours of graduate coursework.