

## Ph.D. student guide

### Qualifying Examination

The Ph.D. Qualifying Examination is composed of two parts: the written Examination and the oral Examination. Both parts of the Examination are given in the beginning of both the fall and spring semesters each year. The student's performance in either part is judged independently of the other part. That is, the student's performance on the written Examination has no bearing on whether or not they pass the oral Examination and vice versa. In any given attempt at the Qualifying Examination, the student can pass both parts, fail both parts or pass one part but not the other.

Graduate students must pass both the written and oral parts of the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination no later than their fourth semester in our program. The students are expected to take the Qualifying Examination during the fall semester of their second year. Students who do not pass both parts of the Examination at that time are advised to either pursue a terminal M.S. degree or to take the Qualifying Examination (for the last time) during the spring semester of their second year.

If they elect, the student can take the Qualifying Examination during the fall semester of their first year. Failure at this stage does not preclude the student from taking the Examination during their second year.

### Research advisor

Graduate students must have a research advisor by the end of the spring semester of their first year. Failure to have a research advisor can result in the termination of financial support.

### Comprehensive Examination

Graduate students must take the Comprehensive Examination no later than the end of the summer after the student's third full year in our program. This examination is administered by the student's Ph.D. committee.

The Comprehensive Examination is an oral exam designed to:

1. assess the student's grasp of physics at the 6000 level, especially (but not exclusively) the physics needed for dissertation research in the chosen area.
2. assess the student's preparedness to do dissertation research. The time spent in the exam should be divided approximately equally between these goals.

### Yearly Progress Reports

After the first year, each graduate student must have yearly meetings with their Ph.D. committee in which the following will happen:

1. The student will give a report of her/his progress in their research from the last year.
2. The student will describe their research plans for the coming year.
3. The committee will assess the rate of progress of the student. Inadequate progress can be grounds for termination of financial support.
4. The committee will provide guidance to assist the student in successfully completing their research in a timely fashion.
5. These meetings are to be held in February of each year. The student should organize the time and place for these meetings.

### Dissertation

The student will provide a copy of her/his dissertation to their Ph.D. committee no later than one week before the scheduled public defense.

### Oral Defense of the Ph.D. Dissertation

The student will present and defend her/his dissertation in a public defense and answer questions from any member of the audience. (This part of the defense is expected to last roughly 45 minutes.)

After the public portion of the defense is concluded, the public is excused from the room. The Ph.D. committee members will question the student about any aspect of the dissertation.

### Formatting requirements of the College of Graduate Studies

After the Ph.D. committee has judged that the student has successfully defended her/his dissertation, the student must submit their dissertation to the College of Graduate Studies. This version of the dissertation must conform to every standard and rule of the College of Graduate Studies.

Finally, please note that the following departmental web sites contain relevant detailed information:

1. a detailed description of the qualifying examination including deadlines for taking it as well as sample exams:

[http://www.utoledo.edu/nsm/physast/programs/grad/qualify\\_exams.html](http://www.utoledo.edu/nsm/physast/programs/grad/qualify_exams.html).

2. a description of the requirements and schedule for the comprehensive exam:

[http://www.utoledo.edu/nsm/physast/programs/grad/comprehensive\\_exam.html](http://www.utoledo.edu/nsm/physast/programs/grad/comprehensive_exam.html).

3. the role of progress reports and a students' committee on continued support:

<http://www.utoledo.edu/nsm/physast/programs/grad/policies.html>.

4. a summary of all of the requirements (including courses) for the Ph.D. degree:

<http://www.utoledo.edu/nsm/physast/programs/grad/philosophy.html>.