

GSOE Written Qualifying Examination Procedures

The Written Qualifying Examination is used to evaluate students' broad knowledge of core areas in their field, research methods related to their area, and ability to construct a research study. Students take the written examination during the 8th week in Spring Quarter* of their 2nd year of full-time study, or after completion of 60 units, including at least 8 units of methods courses. During the term students take this examination, they are encouraged to register for 4 or more units of 291 to provide time for study. Students register for the examination in winter of their 2nd year, or in the quarter before taking the exam for part-time students.

The examination consists of three to four questions that are determined by the area group and methods faculty. The examination for all areas except School Psychology has a Friday through Monday take-home format, during which students work independently but can use their books, notes, and course materials. Exam questions will be emailed by Graduate Program Coordinator at 10am on Friday, and responses are due back via email at 10am the following Monday. School Psychology's examination requires two days of six hours each in Sproul Hall, during which students work independently without notes or other resources.

To determine the outcome of the written examination, at least two faculty independently read students' responses to each question. If faculty do not agree on the pass or fail outcome, a third faculty reader determines the outcome. Students are allowed to retake the failed written examination question area one time, usually during the next quarter. If students fail an examination on the second attempt, they may not take it a third time or continue in the program.

Next steps: Students will often continue to take courses after passing the written examination. After passing the written qualifying examination, students consult with their advisor and propose an area for their dissertation. Students begin writing the pre-proposal in preparation for their Oral Examination. Students also draft their protocol for the Institutional Review Board, if appropriate. Advisor approval is required before students disseminate copies of the pre-proposal or schedule the Oral Examination date.

NOTE: School Psychology student takes the exam in the summer quarter following the 3rd year.