

Ph.D. PROGRAM – Oral Qualifying Examination

(to be signed by examination committee members upon completion –
submit to Academic and Student Affairs Office, M103 MacLean)

NAME: _____ (please print)

Previous College/University: _____ Degree/Year: _____

Date of Advancement to Candidacy: _____ Date of Oral Examination: _____

Research Area(s): _____

Research Adviser(s): _____

EXAMINATION TOPICS AND EXAMINERS:

Topic: _____ Examiner: _____

Topic: _____ Examiner: _____

Topic: _____ Examiner: _____

Oral Examination Committee Chairperson: _____

Action Recommended by Committee:

(For a conditional pass, see notes on the reverse of this form.)

Committee Signatures:

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

_____ Date: _____

From the Thayer School Bulletin—Doctor of Philosophy Program Description

Oral Examination

Upon advancement to candidacy, the director of the Ph.D. program will appoint an oral examination committee consisting of the student's faculty advisor plus three other members, at least two of whom must be Thayer faculty, knowledgeable in the examination areas (at least three areas supporting the field of research). The student's advisor will not chair this committee.

The oral examination must be taken within six months of admission to candidacy. It is administered by the candidate's oral-examination committee and is open to faculty, but is not public. The purpose of the exam is to test the Candidate's knowledge of principles and methods in the field in which advanced work is to be performed. It is passed by decision of the examination committee. Students who do not pass may be permitted by the committee to take the oral examination again within the following three months. No third attempt is allowed.

Conditional Passes

Sometimes, when a student is deficient in one particular area of the exam, a conditional pass is awarded. The examination committee may recommend a variety of remedies to satisfy this deficiency. Possible remedies for a conditional pass include but are not limited to being a T.A. on a course or taking a course. If the deficiency is to be satisfied by the student acting as a T.A. on a course, this must be with the agreement of the course instructor. The instructor must provide a letter at the end of the course stating that the student performed satisfactorily as a T.A. If the examination committee recommends that the student take a course as a condition of the exam, a grade level of B or better must be achieved for the course. For both of these remedies, the student must either act as a T.A. or take the course on its next available offering. It is up to the student to notify the Thayer Registrar once this condition has been met. Failure to meet the conditions of the conditional pass means that the Oral Examination has been failed. If this was the first attempt at the examination, the committee may allow a second attempt. No further attempts after the second attempt are allowed.