

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: _____ **Date of Oral Exam:** _____
(please print)

Previous College/University: _____ **Degree/Year:** _____

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

The oral qualifying exam (ENGG 194), a set of questions put forward by an oral examination committee to the candidate, normally takes place before or during the 5th term of the student's program, or in exceptional circumstances early in the 6th term. The exam is open to the faculty, but not to the general public.

The committee tests the candidate's knowledge of principles and methods underlying the field in which advanced work is to be performed. The exam covers material selected by the candidate's advisor in consultation with the examining committee and includes coverage of mathematical techniques appropriate to the research area. The structure of the preparation for the examination is flexible. See details at:

engineering.dartmouth.edu/images/uploads/OralQualifyingExam-Details.pdf

The student prepares a description of the planned exam, obtains signatures of the advisor and committee members, and submits this to the graduate program office at least 1 month prior to the exam date.

The examination committee consists of 4 members – the Chair plus 3 Dartmouth faculty examiners, with at least 2 of the examiners from Thayer School. A Thayer faculty member other than the student's advisor chairs the committee. This chair is assigned by the MS-PhD Director. See details at:

engineering.dartmouth.edu/images/uploads/OralQualifyingExam-Details.pdf

The examination committee gives the student a pass, fail or conditional pass result. Students who fail may retake the oral examination – one time only – within the following 3 months. Upon passage of the exam or fulfillment of the conditions of the conditional pass (before the assigned deadline) and with a letter of support from the advisor, the student is admitted to PhD candidacy pending vote by the Thayer School faculty.

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.