

School of Industrial Engineering and Management

Ph.D. Qualifying Examination

This step in the doctoral study progression is normally taken near the completion of the coursework portion of the program and includes:

- The student's development of written responses to a one-week take-home examination.
- The student's oral defense of his/her responses to the written examination.

Objectives

- Demonstrate the student's ability to integrate concepts and subject matter from diverse courses, independent study and personal experience.
- Demonstrate the student's ability to perform independent dissertation research.
- Demonstrate the student's ability to analyze, prioritize, schedule and complete a multiple-task assignment within a finite time.
- Demonstrate the student's written and oral communication skills.
- Demonstrate the student's ability during the oral defense of the written examination to clarify, correct and defend the written responses.
- Provide the student and advisory committee with feedback on academic, conceptual and communication strengths and weaknesses.

Format

The faculty adviser obtains the written examination questions from the student's advisory committee. Each advisory committee member will normally submit questions to the faculty adviser that are intended to involve one day of the student's effort. The written examination questions are received by the student from the faculty adviser at a time mutually agreed to by the student and the faculty adviser. A complete copy of the student's responses must be returned within seven days (168 hours) to each member of the advisory committee. The specific format required for the written responses will be established the student's advisory committee prior to the start of the examination.

The student should arrange the time and place of the oral defense of the written examination with the approval of the advisory committee. The oral defense will normally occur no sooner than one week after each advisory committee member has received a copy of the student's responses and a three-hour block of time should be allocated for the oral defense. The oral defense may include questions directed at clarification or verification of the written responses or questions that are extensions of the questions or responses. The advisory committee will determine the written examination and oral defense outcome. The specific outcome agreed to by the advisory committee requires the approval of the faculty adviser and no more than one negative vote from the other advisory committee members.

Specific Outcomes

Pass - The advisory committee agrees that the student has passed the qualifying examination and may proceed to develop the dissertation proposal.

Conditional pass - The advisory committee agrees that the student has passed the qualifying examination, subject to corrections of deficiencies specified by the committee, which are not to include retaking any part of the qualifying examination.

Conditional failure - The advisory committee agrees that the student has failed the qualifying examination. The student must retake all or part of the qualifying examination, plus complete any additional requirements, as specified by the committee.

Failure - The committee agrees that the student has failed the qualifying examination and the student should be dismissed from the program.