

Preliminary Oral Graduate School Examination

Overview

The Preliminary Oral Examination is conducted by the doctoral committee following the requirements of the Oregon State University Graduate School (http://oregonstate.edu/dept/grad_school/). Please note that the STUDENT (not faculty) is ultimately responsible for insuring and that all requirements are fulfilled, all deadlines are met and any departmental and/or graduate school forms required are submitted appropriately and in a timely way. The student must be registered for a minimum of 3 credits for the term in which the preliminary exam is taken. The exam may be held only during the periods when classes are in session (including finals week).

The oral exam is taken only after successfully completing the Written Department Exam and only after advisor and student determine adequate preparation for exam. There will be at least a two week window between successfully completing the Written Exam and conducting the Oral Exam in order to prepare and schedule with the Graduate School.

Purpose

The purpose of the Oral Exam is to assess student's understanding of major and minor fields of study, research design, and core research in the degree area, mathematics or science education. The duration of the exam is at least two hours. In order to be admitted to candidacy for the doctoral degree, you must pass the Preliminary Oral Graduate School Examination conducted by the doctoral committee.

Process

The student is responsible for contacting members of the Doctoral Committee, including the Graduate Council Representative, to arrange the date, time and place. At this time, the student's written responses to Written Department Exam and evaluation should be distributed to entire Oral Exam committee. In addition, the student should meet with each committee member to review major and minor areas of study. When the Committee is in agreement of a date and has received all documentation, the student schedules the exam with the Graduate School office at least one week before the examination using the Event Scheduling Form. The student is responsible for informing the Graduate School of the date, time, and place of the meeting and notifying and reminding the committee of the agreed upon date, time and place. If the committee composition has changed since the program of study meeting, the student must ensure that the new committee member(s) is an approved member of the Graduate Faculty and meets the committee composition requirements. See Scheduling Exams: <http://oregonstate.edu/dept/gradschool/current.html>

The Major Professor is responsible for communicating to the Oral Exam committee the expectations of the exam, the current status of the student, and each member's role in the exam. At minimum, the major professor should make sure that each member receives a copy of the student's qualifying exam at least two weeks before the exam. Committee members outside the Department should receive some instructions about their role so that they can prepare appropriate questions. For example, a member of a science department might be charged with assessing the student's science knowledge in a particular discipline as well as questions relating discipline knowledge to particular educational contexts.

The Oral Exam results may be communicated in one of four ways. (1) Student passes with all members of committee agreeing on satisfactory performance, (2) Student passes with one dissenting vote, (3) exam recessed and student is asked to consider an issue, continuation of exam is scheduled before recess, (4) student's responses are not considered passing and a second and final Oral exam is scheduled at a later date.

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