

Summary of the Proposed New Candidacy Exam

The proposed new candidacy exam will consist of two steps, namely Step-1 and Step-2 exams.

Step-1 is an oral exam to primarily test course knowledge. The objectives are (1) to assess the student's breadth of knowledge and quantitative skill sets and (2) to identify, if any, the weakness(es) in a student's knowledge base and quantitative skill sets and then to recommend a remedy for such weakness(es). Step-2 includes a research-based written report and an oral presentation followed by an oral exam. The primary objective is to assess the examinee's research potential and likelihood to successfully finish the Ph.D. program and to become an independent researcher.

Students are not allowed to take Step-2 until they pass the Step-1.

Phrases with green fonts are where flexible options exist, please see the full proposal for details.

	Step-1	Step-2
Time	Recommended: May of the 1 st academic year. No later than the end of the 2 nd academic year.	Normally in the following year after passing Step-1 (first 2-weeks in each semester is recommended)
Prerequisites	(1) Finish both core courses; (2) GPA \geq 3.3	Pass Step-1
Scopes	2 core course + 1 research related course (+ advisor's list) Remarks: "Skill set" information sheet to both students and committee	The research progress by the time of taking the exam. It could be a nearly finalized manuscript, or merely a research proposal, or something in between.
Exam committee	4 members (chair, cognate, 2 members), advisor not allowed	4 members (chair, cognate, 2 members), plus sit-in advisor
Procedure of actual exam	Review of examinee's dossier; 2-minute self introduction; 2 hours exam (two 1-hour exams with a 10-minute break to refocus and discuss)	Written report due 2 weeks before the exam; Review of examinee's dossier; 2-minute self introduction; 15-minute uninterrupted presentation ; followed by a 1-1.5 hours of oral exam; evaluation sheet filled by each committee member Remarks: Course knowledge can be tested in the oral exam for (1) conditional pass of Step-1 and (2) the core course not in Step-1
Outcome (decided on the spot)	(a) Pass; (b) Condition pass with further coursework required; (c) Fail with retake; (d) Fail (<i>for re-taker only</i>)	(a) Pass (b) Fail with retake (c) Fail with no retake
Feedbacks	(a) Official notification letter; (b) (recommended) Meet with individual committee members	