

Committee Decision

PhD Qualifying Process

Student's Name: _____

Date: _____

Scale: **1** (poor), **2** (inadequate), **3** (marginal), **4** (adequate), **5** (good)

Think: be able to independently reason out, conceive of, and envision key problems and ideas.

Learn: be able to independently ascertain, discover, and understand significant thoughts explained in the literature and in presentations.

Work: demonstrate persistence in producing results, both independently and under directions.

Write: have a good command of the English language; clearly organize and articulate thoughts and ideas; show reasoning and analysis skills in the flow discourse.

Present: be able to clearly organize and explain ideas, motivate the work in a convincing way, explain its significance, and respond articulately and knowledgeably to questions.

Committee Signatures & Scores

Advisor Signature _____

Score: _____

Committee Member 2 _____

Score: _____

Committee Member 3 _____

Score: _____

Committee Member 4 _____

Score: _____

Committee Member 5 _____

Score: _____

Coursework GPA _____

Committee's Average Score _____

Student's Final Grade

Pass

Fail

*After signatures have been collected, please email this form to the Graduate Academic Advisor (graduate@cs.byu.edu).

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Scores (see Assessment Forms for more information)

Score: _____

Score: _____

Score: _____

Score: _____

Score: _____

Committee's Average Score _____ Coursework GPA _____

Student's Final Grade Pass Fail

Assessment

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Ability to Think-Learn-Work-Write-Present

Under the direction of the student's PhD advisor, a student must produce a research paper suitable for submission for publication and defend the contents of the paper in a public presentation.

To be "suitable for submission for publication," the research paper must be a full-length manuscript (not an abstract or extended abstract) and either should have been submitted for publication or should be in a form ready to submit for review to an identified journal or conference.

Turning an MS thesis into a paper under the direction of the student's PhD advisor is a typical way to satisfy this requirement. In this case, the thesis defense can also serve as the public presentation for the PhD qualifying process, but only if the student has (1) completed the breadth courses, (2) turned the thesis into a paper for submission, and (3) invited the PhD committee to attend the MS thesis defense.

Based on the paper and presentation (as well as other interactions between the student and members of the student's PhD committee), the student receives an assessment of independent ability on each of five criteria: Think/Learn/Work/Write/Present. Each committee member makes an assessment for each of the criteria on a scale of 1 (worst) to 5 (best), or N/A when a committee member has had insufficient evidence to make a determination. The score for each of these criteria and the overall score are averages with N/A's omitted.

Grading (there are three cases.)

1. A student passes if the student's average grade for the four breadth courses is 3.7 or better and the student scores and average of 4.0 or better on the ability assessment. A student who passes advances to PhD candidacy.
2. A student fails if any one of the following happens: (1) the public presentation does not take place within 18 months after enrolling in the PhD program; (2) the average breadth-course grade is less than 3.4; or (3) the average ability assessment score is less than 3.0.
3. A student who neither passes nor fails is considered to be marginal. For marginal students, a determination of pass or fail takes into account other evidence. Positive examples: (1) the paper, or other papers, have not only been submitted but have also been published or accepted for publication in top quality journals or conferences; (2) grades in all other courses are straight A's. Negative examples: (1) the student unnecessarily procrastinated working on the paper; (2) other grades are below average for graduate courses. Taking these other factors into consideration, the committee must decide whether to pass or fail the student.

A student who fails once may pass and be advanced to PhD candidacy by rectifying problems before the end of the 24th month after enrollment in the PhD program. A student who fails to rectify problems by the end of the 24th month will be dropped from the PhD program.

To rectify problems with breadth courses, for example, a student may take another course or two and use a different set of four courses to satisfy the breadth requirement. To rectify problems with producing a suitable research paper, for example, a student may prepare another paper for publication.