

## Ph.D -Oral Qualifying Exam Prospectus

### Guidelines

After passing the preliminary examination and completing the Ph. D program of studies 12 courses requirement, the student is ready to take the University Oral Qualifying Examination. The nature and content of the examination are at the discretion of the doctoral committee but ordinarily include a broad inquiry into the student's preparation for research. The doctoral committee also reviews the prospectus of the dissertation at the oral qualifying examination.

Student should furnish each member of the committee with a copy of the proposed thesis research prospectus **at least seven calendar days** prior to the examination. The proposal should be concise and convey all of the following in not more than 7500 words (about 20 pages of text):

- (1) The objectives of the research—explain what is to be accomplished.
- (2) The significance of the research--what impact the accomplished objectives would have, assuming the research progresses as planned.
- (3) The literature background--enough description of prior knowledge for readers to understand what is deficient that makes the proposed work important and useful, and what is known so that the proposed work has a reasonable chance of success.
- (4) A logical plan of attack—a description of foreseen difficulties, options, and plans to overcome the difficulties.
- (5) A description of the procedures, which could be theoretical, analytical, computational, or experimental.
- (6) A brief description of work completed by the student. Students are encouraged to base the structure of the thesis proposal on past outstanding examples of successful proposals as determined by the thesis adviser.