

Notre Dame Quantitative Psychology
Graduate Degree Requirements

August 15, 2006

1 Requirement	Deadline
1 st Year Project	September 1st (Year 2)
MA Proposal	Individualized for each student
MA Defense	Individualized for each student
Prelims	Individualized for each student
Doctoral Oral	Individualized for each student
Doctoral Defense	Last day to defend dissertation for summer graduation (end Year 5)

These deadlines and procedures were implemented in 2006, and apply to everyone, regardless of year of entry.

2 Annual Evaluations

In addition to deadlines, students are informed of specific requirements and forms during the registration period of the first year. Each student's progress in the program is then evaluated on an annual basis. This is done by having students complete a form that indicates their progress in academic, research, and professional activities. They discuss this annual report with their advisor, who summarizes this report with his or her overall evaluation of the student during a meeting of the quantitative faculty at the end of each spring semester. During this meeting each quantitative faculty member provides evaluations of her or his experiences with the student including classroom performance, TA performance, research performance, and service. For each student a decision is made as to whether this student is (a) in good standing, (b) is in danger of not being in good standing, or (c) not in good standing. This evaluation is summarized as feedback to the student presented informally by the student's advisor and formally by the program director.

The formal feedback is in the form of a letter to the student from the program director summarizing the student's strong and weak points, as well as outlining the next steps that the student needs to make in order to remain in

good standing and on-track for successful completion of the PhD degree. If the student is in danger of not being in good standing or is not in good standing, a series of steps is outlined for the student along with deadlines for completion of these steps such that the student may remediate to being in good standing. Loss of good standing means that the department-supplied funding for the student will end at the end of the then-current semester.

3 Non-Research Master's Degree

If a student is showing insufficient progress prior to the Master's Degree, the student may enter a remediation process resulting in a terminal Non-Research Master's Degree. As part of the annual evaluation process, the quantitative faculty may decide that if the student does not fulfill the required steps for remediation during the upcoming year, the student will not be eligible to proceed with the PhD degree. In the case that the student does not fulfill the requirements for full remediation to proceed with the PhD degree, the student will be given an examination at the end of the spring semester equivalent to Part I of the Written Doctoral Qualifying Examination described below. The student must pass this examination in the judgement of two quantitative faculty graders in order to be awarded a terminal Non-Research Master's Degree.

4 Application for Doctoral Candidacy

Students must receive an invitation from the quantitative program to apply for doctoral candidacy. Ordinarily, these invitations will be issued by the end of the third academic year, but before Prelims are taken. In some cases, a decision to invite may be delayed beyond the end of the third year if the MA Thesis defense has not yet been defended and approved. In any case, students will not be able to complete Prelims or embark on any other Doctoral level work without this specific program invitation. All quantitative program faculty members will examine the student's record together with input from the student's master's thesis committee to reach the determination to invite or not invite the student to proceed with Doctoral level work. A majority vote of the quantitative program faculty is required to invite a student to proceed with Doctoral level work. The program will conduct this evaluation expediently following the successful defense of the student's MA

Thesis. At the discretion of the student's advisor, this evaluation can also take place at the end of the student's third academic year if the student has not yet successfully defended his or her thesis. Note that this invitation process occurs earlier and is distinct from the Admission to Doctoral Candidacy requirement which occurs after the dissertation has been successfully proposed

5 Written Doctoral Qualifying Examination

Students will take the written doctoral qualifying examination according to the then-current departmental schedule, either in the fall or the spring semester. The exam consists of two parts. Part I will be a four hour exam based on a core reading list developed by the faculty of the quantitative program. The exam consists of one required question as well as two optional questions, of which the student chooses to answer one. Students will have the option of either of two formats for Part II.

Option A consists of an additional four hour exam, to be administered following Part I. The exam will test the student's knowledge of one of several specialty areas as defined by the faculty of the quantitative program. The exam will consist of two questions, of which the student chooses to answer one. Questions for the exam will be derived from a reading list for the designated specialty area. The quantitative program faculty have developed an initial reading list for each specialty area. The student adds to this list, so that the total number of pages is between 1,200 and 1,500. The student is required to submit this list for approval to the quantitative program faculty no later than the date the student submits the necessary departmental paperwork to apply to take prelim exams.

Option B follows the same guidelines as Option A except that the student is given two weeks to produce an answer, which is generally expected to be between 15 and 20 double-spaced pages.

The student is required to indicate his or her choice between Options A and B of Part II at the time he or she submits departmental paperwork applying to take prelim exams. Each question is graded on a 1 to 6 scale by two quantitative faculty members. A final score on the exam is derived from an

unweighted mean of (1) the required question from Part I, (2) the optional question from Part I, and (3) the question from Part II. A final score of at least 3.5 is required to pass the exam. In addition, a score of at least 3.5 is also required on Part II by itself in order to pass the exam.

6 Program of Study

The specific program of study will be individually designed as a collaboration between the student and his/her faculty advisor. It is expected that students will meet the departmental and university requirements (described separately) and will take at least four courses outside of the quantitative offerings. The student can determine, however, whether he/she wants to establish depth in a secondary area of psychology or breadth across domains. In addition, students are expected to participate and present regularly in the seminar Quantitative Studies Group.