Ph.D. Qualifying Examination (QE) Policy (2009)

Structure

The QE is a written exam and, in some cases, may include an oral exam.

Written exam. To pass the written exam, the student must select and pass 3 sections of available 6 sections. The first attempt for all three sections must occur during the same week.

Available 6 sections:

1. Interactions, Measurement and Theory of Radiation
2. Fission Engineering
3. Reactor Theory and Experimentation
4. Nuclear Materials Engineering
5. Theoretical Health Physics
6. Applied Health Physics

One of the chosen 3 sections must be “Interactions, Measurement and Theory of Radiation”.

Oral exam. Those students who clearly pass the written exam are judged as qualified academically to enter the Ph.D. program. The faculty may convene an oral exam for any student whose written exam result is marginal. (See oral exam policy.)

Procedure

Announcement of Intent. Examinees must announce their intentions to take the written examination no later than by the end of the semester preceding the semester when examination is planned to occur.

Examination period – 3 consecutive days, early in Fall/Spring semesters. Duration of each section is 3 hours.

Permitted number of attempts (excluding summers):

- 2 times in 3 semesters for students with M.S. degrees in nuclear engineering,
- 2 times in 5 semesters for students without M.S. degrees in nuclear engineering

Students are expected to pass all 3 sections on their first attempt. However, if this doesn’t happen a second chance will be given the next time the exams are offered, as described below:

- If 2 of 3 sections are passed on the 1st attempt, the remaining section must be passed on 2nd attempt.
- If only 1 section is passed on the 1st attempt, the entire examination must be repeated.

Results. Written-exam results will be delivered within one month. Oral-exam results will be given within one month of the written-exam results.

Exam format. The exams are graded following the double blind anonymous grading procedure – students will not be identifiable by name in the grading process until the final stage of the exam results review process. Arbitrary alphabetic identifiers will be used during grading and evaluation. The connection between identifiers and students will be unknown to both students and faculty.