

Ocean Engineering Graduate Student Guidelines
Ocean Engineering Tenured Faculty Recommendations

November 17, 2023

1. Regarding Graduate Student Qualifying Examinations

The tenured faculty recommend the following:

- Qualifying Exams should examine knowledge equivalent to a B.S. in Ocean Engineering
- Qualifying Exams are to be administered by faculty in the Ocean Engineering Department, and faculty are to be reminded that the materials examined are to cover B.S. level coursework in OCEN
- Students failing any portion of the Qualifying Exam will be required to retake that portion of the exam within one calendar year
- Students who fail any portion of the qualifying exam will be recommended to the Ocean Engineering Department Head for disenrollment from the Ocean Engineering Department
- Qualifying Exams should be taken either in the first or second year of enrollment in the OCEN Ph.D. degree program, as recommended by the student's committee chair
- Qualifying Exams must be taken within two years of enrollment in the OCEN Ph.D. degree program

2. Regarding Graduate Student (Ph.D.) Preliminary Examinations

The tenured faculty recommend the following:

- Preliminary exams should focus on the student's proposed thesis research and should be taken concomitantly with submission of the thesis proposal to the Graduate College
- Preliminary exams will include an oral exam at a minimum, and may also include written exams at the discretion of the student's Ph.D. thesis committee
- The thesis proposal should be approximately 10-20 pages in length, and should broadly introduce the thesis topic to the student's thesis committee

- The thesis proposal should include at a minimum: a detailed literature review; a research objective, including research issues, challenges, and expected results; anticipated timeline for completion of the thesis, including milestones; and anticipated journal submission dates and topics
- Preliminary exams should not be taken until students have passed the departmental qualifying exams
- Preliminary exams should normally be taken at least one year in advance of the student's final defense (and the sooner the better to persuade the thesis committee that the thesis topic is a reasonable PhD topic). On approval of the thesis committee, this deadline could in some cases be reduced somewhat, but in no case should the final defense be held in less than six months after the preliminary exam.

3. Regarding M.S. and Ph.D. Theses

The tenured faculty recommend the following:

- At a minimum, all M.S. and Ph.D. theses should be of sufficient quality to be publishable in a reputable journal, as judged by the student's graduate committee
- M.S. theses should contain sufficient intellectual property for submission of at least one journal article
- Ph.D. theses should contain sufficient intellectual property for submission of at least 2-3 journal articles, at least one of which has been submitted prior to their final defense
- In most cases, at least one journal publication (or equivalent, as judged by the thesis committee) should already be submitted by Ph.D. students by the time of their final defense

4. Regarding M.S. and Thesis Committees in Ocean Engineering

The tenured faculty recommend the following:

- In order to chair a graduate committee in the Ocean Engineering Department, a faculty member must be at least a part-time member of the TAMU Ocean Engineering Department

- In order to chair a graduate committee in the Ocean Engineering Department, a faculty member must be a member of the TAMU Graduate Faculty
- A member of another department at TAMU may at most co-chair a graduate committee in Ocean Engineering