

Bioengineering Ph.D. Qualifier Exam

TRACK SELECTION – MORE THAN ONE TRACK CAN BE SELECTED (WITH HELP OF ADVISOR AND ADVISING COMMITTEE)

- Biomaterials
- Bioelectrical
- Biomechanics
- Regenerative Medicine
- Cellular and Molecular Engineering Technologies

QUALIFIER EXAM DATE (QUALIFIER MUST BE TAKEN NO LATER THAN ONE AND A HALF YEAR AFTER PHD PROGRAM ENROLLMENT)

- Fall semester –second week after beginning of classes (Friday 1:00-4:30PM)
- Spring semester – second week after beginning of classes (Friday 1:00-4:30PM)

QUALIFIER EXAM FORMAT AND GRADING

- A Ph.D. student is required to meet with his/her advising committee no more than six months after enrollment (at least 3 months before qualifier exam) to be informed on topics to cover (general and project-specific) for qualifier exam.
- Written exam consists of a). submission of a critical literature review to the Advising Committee at least a week before meeting in 3rd semester; b). answer to 7 questions: 3 questions (from a list of 5) from selected scientific track(s), and 4 questions (from a list of 7 developed by the advisor) related to the student's research project. Questions will evaluate the student's ability to think critically and apply knowledge gained from the core track courses.
- Exam is administered and graded by appropriate faculty members.
- Grades are returned to the advisor who will communicate them to the student.
- Passing grade is 75% or higher; if lower, a list of deficiencies is forwarded to the student. Graded exam is not returned to the student. The student can be invited to an oral exam. If a student fails the written and oral part of the examination, he or she will be provided a second and final chance to retake the qualifier exam on the next available opportunity.
- Failure to pass all components of the qualifying examination after the second examination attempt will provide grounds for the student to be dismissed from the doctoral program at the end of the academic term during which the examination was administered.

ORAL EXAM (IF NEEDED)

- The oral exam is administered by a committee made up of 3 or more faculty members: student's advisor (or committee member appointed by advisor) and appropriate other faculty members.
- Other Clemson faculty members could also be invited (ad hoc) to cover specific expertise in which deficiencies were found as needed (statistics, etc.)
- Exam is administered no later than one month after receiving the list of deficiencies.
- Examiners will use a rubric developed by the department for grading. Grading is pass, fail, or conditional pass with condition(s) specified by the oral examination committee.