

PhD in Education Studies Qualifying Examination Guide

***For Students in the Field of
School and Applied Child Psychology***

Version Date: September 2019

GRADUATE PROGRAMS OFFICE

All students in the PhD in School and Applied Child Psychology program are required to satisfactorily complete a qualifying exam. The purpose of the exam is to allow students the opportunity to situate their chosen area of research in a broad educational context. The written paper serves as the Qualifying Examination.

PhD Qualifying Exam:

The doctoral qualifying exam represents one of the major milestones in the School and Applied Child Psychology program. The purpose of the qualifying examination is to demonstrate the student's level of knowledge in a particular area of research and to contribute to the knowledge in the field.

Please follow these guidelines in 6,000-8,000 words, exclusive of references:

- The qualifying exam consists of a literature review on a topic of the student's choice. It is expected that the literature review will culminate into a strong research question. It is strongly recommended that the student choose a topic related to their dissertation topic in order to make clear the theoretical and methodological foundations of the topic of interest prior to writing their dissertation.

You may discuss your paper with anyone, including professors, but you may not submit drafts of your papers to anyone. You are strongly encouraged to discuss the problems with your Supervisor and possibly members of your committee, as it is envisioned that these papers will make a contribution to your research proposal.

Starting Your Qualifying Exam:

It is expected that students will complete their Qualifying Exam within the first year of the program and must be completed in one term. Qualifying Exams are a Milestone and will not show up as a course in your Student Centre. Once you have passed your Qualifying Exam, it will appear at the end of your transcript under the Milestones area.

Request for Administration of Qualifying Exam:

Students must submit the following to the Graduate Programs Office at least four weeks prior to the end of the term of registration:

- 1 copy of your qualifying exam (Can be submitted electronically).
- Request for Administration of Qualifying Examination form (located on the "Forms & Guidelines" page of the Current Students website).

Grading:

Grading will be pass or fail.

The qualifying exam is read by two people: your Supervisor plus a second reader. Each reader will independently determine whether your paper is satisfactory or not and notify the Graduate Programs Office within two weeks after the submission date. The Graduate Programs Office will then notify your Supervisor who will share the results with you. In addition, the readers will be available to meet with you to provide feedback.

If a student's exam is not judged to be of sufficient quality to be marked "Pass" by the reader(s), the student will be permitted to resubmit a revised version of the exam within two weeks of its return. The revised exam will be re-read by the same reader.

If after reading the revised exam the reader does not assign a "Pass," the student will be asked to withdraw from the program. If the reader assigns a "Pass," the student may proceed in the program to complete degree requirements.

If you have any further questions, please contact the Graduate Programs Office.