

Ph.D. Qualifying Exam: Oral Exam

This form is intended to provide a common set of criteria for the assessment of the Ph.D. Oral Qualifying Exam. The committee should complete this form after the exam.

Please score the following elements of the Oral Qualifying Exam according to the rubric below, with Expert defined as the expected proficiency of a Post-Doctoral Scholar or Assistant Professor, and Introductory defined as the proficiency of someone who has not acquired skills beyond that of a bachelor's degree.

	Score	Comments
Material relating to dissertation proposal		
Command of literature, background		
Verbal communication		

Oral Comprehensive Exam Rubric

Criteria:	Introductory	Intermediate	Advanced	Expert
Material Relating to Dissertation Proposal	Little theory development, methods unclear or unjustified.	Simplistic theory, may disregard difficulties. Methods are fairly clear.	Builds on existing theory, is well developed. Methods are very clear and well justified.	Insightful, developed theory, methods are extensively described and supported.
Command of Literature, Background	Research background is limited; incomplete knowledge of previous work; may be unaware of key studies in the field, and studies that challenge the student's perspective.	Research background is somewhat limited, may be unaware of some relevant studies. Is beginning to show familiarity with the literature, but may omit some competing work.	Research background is comprehensive, with clear familiarity of the literature. Is aware of most work in the field, providing a balanced view of background research where relevant.	Research background is extensive, clear fluency with the literature. Student is aware of all major sources, and may cite unexpected sources. Student can speak at length of the limitations of previous studies, and provides a comprehensive, balanced perspective.
Verbal Communication	Has difficulty speaking clearly, is difficult to follow. Responses to questions or criticism are off topic or very limited.	Student speaks somewhat clearly, may be slightly hard to follow. Responses to questions and criticism may be incomplete or flawed.	Speaks fairly clearly, explanations are generally understandable. Is able to answer nearly all questions and respond to criticism.	Speaks clearly, providing clear explanations. Has well-reasoned, complete responses to questions and criticism.