

DOCTORAL QUALIFYING EXAMINATION (DQE)

The doctoral qualifying examination is scheduled after all course work has been completed. There are two parts to this examination.

Part 1 – Faculty Review of Papers

Select and submit to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee two of your best papers previously written in any doctoral level course. You may want to revisit/revise the paper in light of feedback you received from the instructor of the class and/or the criteria that we are using to evaluate these papers.

The papers will be reviewed by three faculty members based on a rubric (yet to be developed) to determine whether the candidate demonstrates the ability to successfully write a dissertation. The review committee will consist of a minimum of two members of the Doctoral Committee and one other tenure track faculty member. The doctoral student's advisor will NOT serve on the review committee. Once the candidate has received a satisfactory faculty review of these papers, he/she can schedule Part 2 of the DQE with the Director of Graduate Studies.

Part 2 – Oral Exam

In an oral presentation, the candidate will be prepared to discuss books from the reading list that are relevant to his/her dissertation topic and respond to questions about 20 books chosen (by the candidate) from the Doctoral Reading List. At least three weeks prior to the oral presentation, the candidate will submit to the Chair of the Doctoral Committee the following:

- 1. **Short Paper:** In a 1 – 2 page paper describe a potential dissertation topic.
- 2. **Annotated Booklist:** List the titles of the books from the Doctoral Reading List that most inform your thinking about the dissertation topic you have described. For each book on your list, include a brief comment that describes the connection.
- 3. **List of 20 books for Oral Exam.** List of the 20 books from the Doctoral Reading List (including those on Annotated Booklist) that you wish to be included in the oral exam.

During the oral presentation, the candidate should be prepared to elaborate on the books selected for the Annotated Booklist and the rationale for selecting them. In addition, the candidate needs to be prepared to respond to questions about all twenty selected books from the Doctoral Reading List. At the end of the oral exam, the student will be asked to leave the examination room so that the committee can discuss the student's performance and vote on whether the student has passed the DQE. The student will be immediately informed of the committee's decision and recommendations.

DQE DISCUSSION GROUP

The DQE Discussion Group is a dedicated group of pre-DQE stage doctoral students who meet regularly to discuss selections from the texts on the doctoral reading list. If you have questions about this group, please contact the department chair or your adviser.

OFFICIAL DOCTORAL CANDIDACY

Students advance to doctoral candidacy upon recommendation of their department after completing all course work, fulfilling the residency requirement, and passing the Doctoral Qualifying Examination. A student cannot advance to candidacy until all requirements, as listed on the *Doctoral Program Planning Form*, have been satisfied.