

Rubrics for Evaluating the Qualifying Document and Exams

Purpose of the Qualifying Process:

The purpose of the qualifying exam is to allow students to demonstrate *minimally sufficient* readiness to advance to candidacy. This process is one part of a comprehensive evaluation. Readiness to advance to candidacy involves that the student demonstrates the following:

1. base of knowledge relating to a specific field,
2. ability to integrate prior literature and synthesize it to generate new ideas,
3. can design a study based on their research question, using methods appropriate to the research question,
4. understands how to conduct analyses, aligned with their research question and their method,
5. situates their study back into the broader literature, showing sufficient understanding of the implications as well as the limitations,
6. can draw upon prior knowledge to reason through questions, even where there is no clear answer.

Note: There are no automatically unacceptable methodologies. It is the QP chair's responsibility to ensure that the research design and analytic method is appropriate to their field, but it is the student's responsibility to convey the appropriateness in the document. Students are not required to know analytical methods from courses they have not yet taken, but are expected to adequately describe or explain any methods that they include in their document.

FOR STUDENTS WHO HAVE OPTED FOR THE LEGACY VERSION OF THE QP

Rubric for Rating the Qualifying Document

If all three committee members unanimously rate the written document as insufficient, then the student fails the qualifying process and will not proceed to the written and oral examinations.

Insufficient: The document is incomplete or does not meet minimally sufficient standards for competence as a proposal, manuscript, or thesis.

Sufficient: The document is complete *and* meets minimally sufficient standards for competence as a proposal, manuscript, or thesis.

Rubric for Rating the Written Exam

Insufficient: The written exam is incomplete or does not meet minimally sufficient standards of competence for advancement to candidacy.

Sufficient: The written exam is complete *and* meets minimally sufficient standards of competence for advancement to candidacy.

Rubric for the Oral Exam

Insufficient: Oral performance does not meet minimally sufficient standards of competence for advancement to candidacy.

Sufficient: Oral performance meets minimally sufficient standards of competence for advancement to candidacy.

Overall Across the Whole Exam

Insufficient: Overall performance does not meet minimally sufficient standards of competence for advancement to candidacy.

Sufficient: Overall performance meets minimally sufficient standards of competence for advancement to candidacy.

FOR STUDENTS TAKING THE NEW VERSION OF THE QP
(mandatory for those who enrolled after Fall 2021)

Rubric for Rating the Qualifying Document

Insufficient: The document is incomplete or does not meet minimally sufficient standards for competence as a proposal, manuscript, or thesis.

Sufficient: The document is complete *and* meets minimally sufficient standards for competence as a proposal, manuscript, or thesis.