

# Instructions To Candidacy Examining Committee

## Purpose of Candidacy Examination

The candidacy examination is comprehensive and addresses the qualifications of the doctoral graduate student in terms of her/his ability to pursue and complete original research at an advanced level. The purpose of the exam is to assess the breadth of the candidate's knowledge in her/his general field of research, the candidate's knowledge of the technical aspects of the proposed thesis research and the candidate's reasoning and critical thinking abilities.

## Candidacy Exam Document

To provide a foundation from which the Candidacy Examining Committee can frame their questions during the candidacy exam, the graduate student will prepare a written summary of his/her proposed thesis research. The Candidacy Examining Committee is to consider the thesis proposal as a starting point for the examination. The candidacy examination is not a defence of the thesis proposal, however the student's understanding of the proposed research and experimental methods will be assessed.

## Evaluation Criteria

FGSR stipulates that the graduate students must demonstrate "an adequate knowledge of the discipline and of the subject matter relevant to the thesis; and, the ability to pursue and complete original research at an advanced level." Members of the Candidacy Examining Committee will evaluate the graduate student against the following four general criteria:

- a. The graduate student has demonstrated effective written and verbal communication skills;  
For example,
  - The graduate student answered questions with confidence and authority;
- b. The graduate student demonstrated an adequate knowledge of the scientific and technical concepts and principles in areas relevant to the proposed thesis;
- c. The graduate student demonstrated the critical thinking skills required to conduct original research; and  
For example,
  - The graduate student demonstrated understanding of how experimental design can be used to test hypotheses;
  - The graduate student demonstrated good problem-solving/reasoning skills;
- d. The graduate student demonstrated an understanding of the significance and relevance of their proposed research.