

# Doctoral Regulations and Procedures

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## Qualifying Examination and Admission to Candidacy

The student must pass a written qualifying examination in the field of study. At the discretion of the department, the qualifying examination may also include an oral examination. Upon successfully passing the qualifying examination, the student is considered for admission to candidacy for a doctoral degree.

Usually, students will sit for the qualifying exam during or immediately following their last semester of coursework. If the performance on the examination is unsatisfactory, the doctoral program chair will determine whether the student is allowed to retake the examination or any part of the examination according to the individual program requirements.

Admission to a doctoral program does not automatically include admission to candidacy for the doctoral degree. The faculty of the department must evaluate the progress of the student and determine that the student has completed all course and other requirements, has passed the qualifying examination, and is otherwise qualified to fulfill the research requirements leading to completing the doctoral dissertation.

Departments may follow different procedures for formal admission to candidacy. The student should consult with the department chair or dean for information on these procedures.