

Notre Dame Quantitative Psychology Graduate Degree Requirements

August 15, 2006
Revised Sept 4, 2018

1 Requirement	Deadline
1 st Year Project	September 1st (Year 2)
MA Proposal	Individualized for each student MA Defense Individualized for each student
Prelims	Individualized for each student Doctoral Oral Individualized for each student
Doctoral Defense	Last day to defend dissertation for summer graduation (end Year 5)

These deadlines and procedures were implemented in 2006, and apply to everyone, regardless of year of entry.

2 Annual Evaluations

Each student's progress in the program is evaluated on an annual basis. This is done by having students complete the annual report form at the end of the school year. The report that indicates their progress in academic, research, and other professional activities, and is sent to the program director and the secretary of the department. Annual reports are discussed by the quant faculty, with the aim of achieving an overall evaluation of the student. During this meeting each quantitative faculty member provides evaluations of her or his experiences with the student including classroom performance, TA performance, research performance, and service. For each student a decision is made as to whether this student is (a) in good standing, (b) is in danger of not being in good standing, or (c) not in good standing. This evaluation is summarized as feedback to the student in a letter from the program director, which is emailed to the student. Students can obtain more detailed feedback in a personal discussion with the supervisor. The letter summarizes the student's strong and weak points, as well as outlines the next steps that the student needs to make in order to remain in good standing, and on track for successful completion of the PhD degree. If the student is in danger of not being in good standing or is not in good standing, a series of steps is outlined for the student along with deadlines for completion of these steps such that the student may remediate to being in good standing. Loss of

good standing means that the department–supplied funding for the student will end at the end of the then–current semester.

3 Non–Research Master’s Degree

If a student is showing insufficient progress prior to the Master’s Degree, the student may enter a remediation process resulting in a terminal Non–Research Master’s Degree. As part of the annual evaluation process, the quantitative faculty may decide that if the student does not fulfill the required steps for remediation during the upcoming year, the student will not be eligible to proceed with the PhD degree. In the case that the student does not fulfill the requirements for full remediation to proceed with the PhD degree, the student will be given an examination at the end of the spring semester equivalent to Part I of the Written Doctoral Qualifying Examination described below. The student must pass this examination in the judgment of at least two quantitative faculty members in order to be awarded a terminal Non-Research Master’s Degree.

4 Application for Doctoral Candidacy

Students must receive an invitation from the quantitative program to apply for doctoral candidacy. Ordinarily, these invitations will be issued by the end of the third academic year, but before Prelims are taken. In some cases, a decision to invite may be delayed beyond the end of the third year if the MA requirements (see document “Master’s Degree Requirements for Quantitative Students”) have not yet been met. In any case, students will not be able to complete Prelims or embark on any other Doctoral level work without this specific program invitation. All quantitative program faculty members will examine the student’s record together with input from the student’s master’s thesis committee to reach the determination to invite or not invite the student to proceed with Doctoral level work. A majority vote of the quantitative program faculty is required to invite a student to proceed with Doctoral level work. The program will conduct this evaluation expediently the moment a student meets the the master’s requirements.

At the discretion of the student's advisor, this evaluation can also take place at the end of the student's third academic year if the student has not yet met the requirements. Note that this invitation process occurs earlier and is distinct from the Admission to Doctoral Candidacy requirement which occurs after the dissertation has been successfully proposed.

5 Written and Oral Doctoral Qualifying Examination (“Prelims”)

Students will take the written doctoral qualifying examination according to the then-current schedule, either in the fall or the spring semester. The student has the responsibility to fill out and sign the required forms (for more detailed information please see the secretary).

The exam consists of two parts. Part I will be a 4-hour written exam that tests the student's comprehension of the materials that are covered in the courses listed below. Students can discuss with their supervisors whether course participation is necessary to master these materials. The exam consists of one required question as well as three optional questions, of which the student chooses to answer one. Permitted resources during the written part are limited to a latex editor of choice and R. Each question is graded on a 1 to 6 scale by at least two quantitative faculty members. A score of at least 3 for each of the two individual questions and an average score of at least 3.5 are required to pass this part of the exam.

Part II is administered if Part I was completed successfully, and consists of a 2-hour oral exam. The student assembles a committee of at least 3 quantitative faculty members including his or her main supervisor. The oral exam probes the student's knowledge of his or her specialty area(s) in addition to the materials covered in the required courses. The exam consists of multiple questions which are usually followed by more detailed inquiries. Directly following the oral exam the committee decides whether the student has passed the exam.

6 Courses that cover the required materials

We expect students to be proficient in the materials covered in the following courses:

Quantitative Methods I and II

Multivariate Statistics
Applied Longitudinal Analysis
Introduction to the Linear Model
Psychological Measurement
SEM
Applied Bayesian Analysis
Computational Statistics
Statistical Inference
Applied/Intermediate Probability

7 Program of Study

The specific program of study is individually designed as a collaboration between the student and his/her faculty advisor. It is expected that students will meet the departmental and university requirements (described separately). The student can determine, however, whether he/she wants to establish depth in a secondary area of psychology or breadth across domains. In addition, students are expected to participate, and to present regularly in the seminar Quantitative Studies Group (QSG).