

The Academic Calendar in this catalog as well as in other School of Graduate Studies calendars.

- The defended thesis is reviewed by the School of Graduate Studies to ensure that the format conforms with the specifications prescribed in the *Thesis and Dissertation Manual*.

Requirements for Doctor of Philosophy Degree

The doctorate symbolizes the ability of the recipient to undertake original research and scholarly work at the highest levels without supervision. The degree is, therefore, not granted simply upon completion of a stated amount of course work but rather upon demonstration by the student of a comprehensive knowledge and high attainment in scholarship in a specialized field of study. The student must demonstrate this ability by writing a dissertation reporting the results of an original investigation and by passing a series of comprehensive examinations in the field of specialization.

Advisory Committee and Plan of Graduate Work

An advisory committee of at least four Graduate Faculty members, one of whom will be designated as chair, will be appointed by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies upon the recommendation of the Chairperson of the department. The committee, which must include at least one representative of the minor field, will, with the student, prepare a Plan of Graduate Work that must be approved by the department and the School of Graduate Studies. In addition to the course work to be undertaken, the subject of the student's dissertation must appear on the plan. Any subsequent changes in the committee or dissertation subject or in the overall plan must be submitted for approval as with the original plan.

The program of study must be unified, and all constituent parts must contribute to an organized program of study and research. Courses must be selected from groups embracing one principal subject of concentration, the major, and from a cognate field, the minor.

Residence Requirement

For the Doctor of Philosophy degree, the student is expected to be registered for graduate work at an accredited graduate school for at least six semesters beyond the baccalaureate degree.

The basic University residence requirements are defined below. However, the College of Engineering has the prerogative of establishing more restrictive requirements within the respective programs.

Language Requirement

The departments may designate that the language requirement be fulfilled from among those languages in which the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures conduct testing. Doctoral students should contact the major department for specific language requirements.

Preliminary Comprehensive Examinations

After completing the language requirement, but not earlier than the end of the second year of graduate study, and not later than one semester (four months) before the final oral examination, each doctoral student is required to take the preliminary comprehensive examination. The examinations consist of two parts: written examination and an oral examination.

The written portion may be conducted in one of two ways. In the first, each member of the advisory committee prepares a set of questions for the student's response, and answers to each set are returned to the appropriate member for grading. In the second, the Department prepares a single exam that is graded by a faculty committee.

The examination questions involved may cover any phase of the course work taken by the student during graduate study or any subject logically related to an understanding of the subject matter in the major and minor areas of study. The questions are designed to measure the student's mastery of the subject matter and the adequacy of preparation for research. Failure to pass the written preliminary examination terminates the student's work at this institution, subject to departmental and/or school policies with respect to reexamination.

Upon satisfactory completion of the written portion of the preliminary examinations and

after completion of all course work relevant to the examination, authorization for the preliminary oral examination is requested from the School of Graduate Studies. This examination is conducted by the student's advisory committee and a representative from the School of Graduate Studies and is open to all Graduate Faculty members. The oral examination is designed to test the student's ability to relate factual knowledge to specific circumstances, to use this knowledge with accuracy and promptness, and to demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the field of specialization and related areas.

A unanimous vote of approval by the members of the advisory committee is required for the student to pass the preliminary oral examination. Approval may be conditional, however, on the successful completion of additional work in some particular field(s). All committee actions may be appealed by written application to the Graduate Dean.

Failure to pass the preliminary oral examination terminates the student's work at the University unless the examining committee recommends a reexamination. No reexamination may be given until at least one full semester has elapsed, and only one reexamination is permitted.

Candidacy

A doctoral student is admitted to candidacy upon passing the preliminary examinations without conditions or after fulfilling any conditions specified by the advisory committee.

Qualifying Examination

This is a written examination that is required of all Ph.D. students and is scheduled each semester. The qualifying examination must be passed prior to the end of the third semester. Provisional students cannot sit for the qualifying examination. They must first gain a status change to unconditional admission. Students should consult the departmental handbook for details.

Preliminary Examination

The preliminary examination is given in the semester following completion of all required coursework. In this oral examination, the student is asked about graduate course work and subject matter related to the specialization. It is also a presentation and defense of the proposed dissertation topic. Students should consult the departmental handbook for details.

Admission to Candidacy

Admission to candidacy is given once the student has completed and passed all parts of the preliminary examination. Students should consult the departmental handbook for details.

Final Oral Examination

The final oral examination is scheduled after the dissertation is complete. It consists of the defense of the methodology used and the conclusion reached in the research. Students should consult the departmental handbook for details.

Dissertation Submission

The doctoral dissertation presents the results of the student's original investigation in the field of major interest. It must be a contribution to knowledge, must be adequately supported by data and must be written in a manner consistent with the highest standards of scholarship. Publication is expected.

Upon passing the Ph.D. final oral examination, each Ph.D. student must have the dissertation approved by each member of the student's advisory committee. The defended dissertation must be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies by the deadline given in the academic calendar, and must conform to the School of Graduate Studies' *Thesis and Dissertation Manual*, a copy of which may be obtained from the School of Graduate Studies Office. Once final approval is granted, four copies of the document signed by all members of the student's advisory committee must be submitted to the School of Graduate Studies by a specified deadline

in the semester or summer session in which the degree is to be conferred.

The University has a requirement that all doctoral dissertations be microfilmed by University Microfilms International of Ann Arbor, Michigan, which includes publication of the abstract in Dissertation Abstracts International. The student is required to pay for the microfilming service.

Residence Requirement and Doctor of Philosophy Time Limit

Two semesters of residence credits must be earned. In addition, the doctoral student has a maximum of six calendar years from admission to attain candidacy and ten calendar years to complete all requirements. The dissertation must be completed in five years after admission to candidacy. Students should consult the departmental handbook for details.

Credit Completion Requirements

A minimum of 24 course credits and 12 dissertation credits beyond the Master of Science are required. Students should consult the departmental handbook for details.

Interinstitutional Doctor of Philosophy Program

North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina State University and the University of North Carolina at Charlotte all participate in an interinstitutional Ph.D. program. Students seeking admission to such a cooperative program must satisfy all admission and degree requirements at the university where the Ph.D. will be issued as well as those of the student's home institution. Details are available at each of the departments involved in the interinstitutional Ph.D. program.

Summary of Procedures for Doctor of Philosophy

- Application materials and the required fee are received.
- Application materials are reviewed by the department or program.
- The department or program forwards its recommendation regarding applicant's admissibility to Dean of the School of Graduate Studies
- The School of Graduate Studies reviews the recommendation and notifies the student of the action taken on the request for admission.
- The student arrives, reports to the department or program, is assigned a graduate advisor, and develops a roster of courses and credits with the advisor.
- The student complies with requests from the School of Graduate Studies for updated copies of transcripts from previous colleges or universities.
- The student is subject to the continuous registration policy until graduation.
- An advisory committee of at least four graduate faculty members is appointed by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies upon the recommendation of the coordinator of graduate programs.
- The Dean of the School of Graduate Studies appoints a representative to the student's committee.
- A dissertation subject is selected and an outline of the proposed research submitted to the student's advisory committee and the coordinator of graduate programs for review and approval. A Plan of Graduate Work is prepared by the student, in consultation with and with the approval of his/her graduate advisory committee and the coordinator of graduate programs, and forwarded to the School of Graduate Studies for approval as soon as feasible after completion of 12 hours of course work.
- Written examinations in the major and minor fields are scheduled no earlier than the end of the second year of graduate study and not later than one semester before the final oral examination.
- When all written examinations have been completed satisfactorily, the chair or the coordinator of graduate programs requests the scheduling of the preliminary oral examination at least two weeks prior to the suggested date.
- The report of the examination is sent to the School of Graduate Studies and if, the