

PROCEDURES FOR ADMISSION TO CANDIDACY

To be recommended for candidacy for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree, you must give satisfactory evidence of a high degree of proficiency in your primary field of interest, in addition to demonstrating an understanding and knowledge of the fundamentals of chemistry. This is evaluated in an Oral Examination, which must be held during or before your fifth term of residence (excluding summers). Effectively this is the end of March of the second year.

The primary purpose of the candidacy exam is to establish that you have embarked on a viable research project that is likely to lead to a successful PhD. The exam should also ensure that you have a thorough understanding of the project including the necessary background literature. It should also be established that you have made sufficient progress to be able to carry out the necessary research.

The candidacy exam also includes the discussion/critique of two original research proposals, as vehicles to evaluate creativity, clarity of thought in developing a research project, and ability to research and write a persuasive proposal. You will also be evaluated in general chemical knowledge emphasizing but not limited to topics related to the proposed research

At least one week prior to the oral examination, you must submit a written Research Report and two original research proposals, one of which must be clearly out-of-field, to each of your committee members. *The out-of-field proposal should be so labeled. It is recommended that a few explanatory sentences be included as a preface to justify the labeling of the proposal as out-of-field.* During the oral examination you must demonstrate scientific competence and professionalism in defending your written report.

Choosing a Committee: The makeup of your candidacy committee has recently been determined by the Graduate Study Committee. Your committee members should include your research advisor and two other faculty members, one of whom must be outside your primary field of interest. The choice of the chairman is yours, and requires the consent of your research advisor and the member you select as Chairman; however, the chairman must be a faculty member of the chemistry department. Before scheduling your exam, check with each committee member to determine a satisfactory date. Please note that this committee, with one additional faculty member, will also serve as your Ph.D. examination committee.

Scheduling the Examination: You must schedule your Candidacy Examination with Agnes Tong (in Room 161 Crellin) about four weeks in advance. The examination must be held no later than your fifth term of graduate residence (end of March of the second year). **There is a packet which contains 3 forms**, a Candidacy petition form, a Committee and Date form, and a course program form. You will also receive instructions for completing these forms.

DELIVER A COPY OF YOUR RESEARCH REPORT AND PROPOSITIONS TO EACH OF YOUR COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND TO AGNES NO LATER THAN ONE WEEK PRIOR TO YOUR EXAMINATION. Your research report should describe your research progress and accomplishments to date and your plans for future research. Two propositions must accompany the report; these should reflect your breadth of reading, originality and ability to see and propose solutions for valid scientific problems. One of the propositions must be outside the immediate field of your thesis research. The purpose of the out-of-field proposal is to expose you to research areas outside of your immediate field of research interest, to determine your ability to identify an important problem, and to evaluate your creativity. The out-of-field proposition should be in research of a nature that would clearly not be undertaken by the your research group (or groups, for students with multiple advisors). Extensions of ongoing research in groups with similar research interests are also not allowed. The in-field proposition can be of a nature that one could imagine your research group(s) pursuing such a problem in the future. However, it cannot be simply the next logical step in your research or other members of your research group(s), and it must be an idea that is clearly original to you.

If the committee determines that neither proposal diverges sufficiently from the student's research interests, it may be deemed necessary for the student to choose another topic and rewrite a proposal for re-evaluation by the committee. To avoid misunderstandings, you should discuss your intentions with your research advisor at an early stage. **NOTE: All research reports are limited to 30-double spaced pages and propositions to 15 double-spaced pages.**

After the Examination: When the oral examination has been passed and the research report and propositions are satisfactory, your candidacy committee members will all sign the Candidacy petition for final processing.

If you fail to pass the oral examination, or if your research report or any of your propositions is judged to be inadequate, you will not be recommended for candidacy.

To be admitted to candidacy at a future date, you will be required to follow the recommendations of your committee which may include correction of the deficiencies, additional course work and/or scheduling of a new examination at a specified interval of time. In rare instances, it may be determined inappropriate for a student to pursue the Ph.D. degree.

REMINDER: You must be admitted to candidacy at least three terms before your final Ph.D. oral examination. You may not continue in graduate work in Chemistry past the end of the sixth term of residence without having been admitted to candidacy, except by petitioning to the Division through the Graduate Studies Committee for special permission.

If you have any questions about these procedures, please see Agnes Tong in 161 Crellin.