

Preliminary Exam Determination – For PhD Students

Instructions: In consultation with your advisor and committee – and after reading the full description for each option in the graduate student manual – please indicate which type of Preliminary Exam you plan to complete (check only one). Please return this completed form to Mary Roe (roem@purdue.edu) and CC Evan Perrault (eperraul@purdue.edu)

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

Adviser's Name: _____

Comprehensive Preliminary Exam

- This written examination consists of 20 hours of questions typically distributed in the following manner:
 - 8 hours devoted to the major area
 - 8 hours in the substantive minor areas
 - 4 hours in research methodology
- At least 8 of the 20 hours must be conducted in house closed book format. Up to 12 hours of the exam may be in the form of take-home questions, special research projects, open book questions, etc. Written examinations must be completed within a 30-day period. An oral defense of the student's response to the written exam must be held within 30 days following completion of the written exam.

Preliminary Paper

- This option consists of both a successful proposal defense of the project idea, and then successful completion and oral defense of the project/paper.
 - Proposal Defense: The project proposal should follow a conventional proposal format and include clearly stated research questions/hypotheses/goals, a comprehensive assessment of relevant theoretical and empirical literature surrounding the topic, and proposed methods/measures to carry out the project. Once the proposal is approved by the committee (and signed off on via the Preliminary Paper Proposal Defense Form), the student will then independently carry out the proposal. It is anticipated that the process to complete the preliminary paper should take no more than 1 semester.
 - Paper Oral Defense: The completed preliminary paper will then be orally defended. This paper should be comparable in quality, style, and length to a manuscript that would be submitted to a peer-reviewed journal.

*** For either option - at least two weeks prior to the final oral defense, Graduate School Form 8 is prepared and sent to the graduate school to generate the paperwork required to report the results of the Preliminary Examinations