

Department of Biology

Form 1 for the PhD Qualifying Exam (Preparatory Meeting)

Student's Name: _____

The qualifying exam evaluates a doctoral candidate's breadth of scientific knowledge, extending beyond the specifics of their dissertation research. It is not an exercise in memorization, nor an extension of the proposal assessment, but instead an opportunity for the candidate to demonstrate (and examiners to assess) their autonomy and scientific maturity.

8-10 weeks before the anticipated exam, the student is required to meet with the examination committee as a group (including supervisor and co-supervisor, if applicable). This preparatory meeting identifies the area in which each examiner will question the student. Expectations and potential outcomes as outlined in the Graduate Handbook (Pass with Distinction; Pass; Fail-Redo; Fail-Withdraw) are also discussed with the student at this preparatory meeting.

After the preparatory meeting but before the qualifying exam, students are encouraged to meet individually with examiners to further discuss and refine topics.

In the space below, indicate the areas of concentration to be addressed in the examination. This will form the basis of the examination. All must agree to the details described below before the form is signed. Signing this form indicates that all have understood the process and their respective responsibilities. This form must be signed by the qualifying examination committee, supervisor and student, and submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator, before the exam can be scheduled.

SIGNATURES:

Date: _____

Examiner #1 _____

Examiner #2 _____

Examiner #3 _____

Supervisor _____

Joint/Co-Supervisor _____

Student _____