

Procedure for Candidacy Examination: Oral part

Proposed procedure

1. The candidate will submit a report (Zero DC format is available in Department Website) to the DC members one week before the Zero-DC outlining the area of research. During the Zero DC, the committee will decide on the topics that are relevant to the area of research, and this will be conveyed to the student.
2. The candidate will perform a literature review on these topics.
3. They will also acquire thorough fundamental knowledge in related areas through regular course work, online courses, and self-study.
4. The candidate will submit a report to the DC members at least two weeks before the candidacy exam. The report should contain a thorough literature review of the research area/problem and a proposal including objectives, methodology, milestones and probable outcomes. The candidacy exam will be scheduled only after receiving the report.
5. The DC might decide to invite additional members for the candidacy exam depending on the topics covered in the report.
6. During the candidacy exam, the student will present a summary of the report in about twenty minutes. Each member of the candidacy exam panel will ask questions to test the candidate's knowledge of fundamentals as well as their aptitude to perform research in the selected area. The entire exam will be of about 75 minute duration.
7. Each member will give marks out of 100 with the following components:
 - Knowledge of fundamentals: 50% (this will be further split up into the specific topics identified in the Zero-DC. The break-up will be decided prior to the start of the exam)
 - Quality of literature review: 20%
 - Ability to grasp research issues and challenges: 15%
 - Communication and presentation skills: 15%
8. All candidates should score a minimum of 60% to pass the candidacy exam. Candidates who pass the exam, but score low marks for the knowledge of fundamentals (less than 50% for the fundamentals component) will be advised to take additional courses which they have to complete before the submission of the thesis.
9. All candidates should follow the institute guidelines for completing the candidacy exam within the stipulated time.

Candidates who wish to pursue teaching career will be encouraged to sign-up for a teaching mentoring program.