

Advancement to Candidacy Examinations

The following guidelines are established for the timetable and format of the Candidacy examinations for Physical Rehabilitation Science Doctoral Degree. These guidelines provide consistency within the program while at the same time recognizing the need for individual variation across different areas of concentration, advisors and students.

1. Students may sit for examinations after they have completed the Foundational Science Core requirement and a minimum of 40 credits of their total coursework. The exact scheduling of the examination will be set by the student's plan of study (formalized during their second full-time year in the program).
2. The composition of the candidacy examination will consist of a minimum of 4 faculty: the academic advisor, the research advisor or co-advisor (if different/present) and other graduate faculty. At least two of the faculty must be from the Department of Physical Therapy (**minimum 1**) and the **Graduate Faculty of the Physical Rehabilitation Program**. At least one must be from outside the Department of Physical Therapy and the Graduate Faculty of the Physical Rehabilitation Program. The latter person should be selected by the student and academic advisor and, typically, would be someone who has had a role in teaching the student.
3. The written examinations will comprise four separate sessions (between 2-5 hours each) with a closed-book format. Two sessions will be devoted to a comprehensive understanding of the Foundational Science and Tools Cores. Students are expected to demonstrate an interdisciplinary approach and understanding of Rehabilitation Science. The other two sessions will be devoted to a comprehensive understanding of the area of concentration. The exact format of these exams is individually determined between the main advisor and student. Students are expected to demonstrate the skills of integration and application to rehabilitation throughout.
4. An oral examination will follow the written. The total time between beginning the written exams and the oral will be no more than 2 months with orals no less than 2 weeks after the end of the written examinations. Any exceptions to these rules should be submitted to the program director for approval. Students will be expected to defend their written answers as well as answer other questions in their areas of study.
5. A decision on passing will be made immediately after the orals, based on a consensus of the committee. Students who **fail the comprehensive examination may retake the entire examination after an appropriate time period decided by the advisor. A second compete failure will result in dismissal from the program.** Students who do not reach an acceptable standard in part of the examination will be offered a chance to remediate in a form agreed upon by the committee.