Changes to PhD-Program Requirements

April 4, 2014
Background

🔗 External Review in Spring 2013:
  • Major performance review that identifies needs for structural changes, allocations of resources..
  • Serves for negotiations with college.

🔗 PhD Program:
  Only one factor was singled out to work on:

🔗 Time to Degree:
  • Currently 6.5+ years
  • Funding limit of 6 years was urged.
  • Nominal “expectation” 6 years already.
  • Was already addressed in 2005 external report.
Background

🔗 **Strategic Plan Response:**
- Required from us by college & university.
- No way around addressing the time issue.

🔗 **Opportunity:**
- Incentive to improve program.
- Argue for added funding for teaching relief.
Overview

❖ **Funding Limit:**
  - Limit to six years – adaption of other times limits.
  - Phase-in and probationary extension.

❖ **Candidacy Exam:**
  - Research oriented – instead of course based.

❖ **Qualifying Requirement:**
  - Focus on doctoral (6000) level analysis & algebra.
  - Mainly course based – but with exam options.

❖ **Miscellaneous:**
  - Invitations – exposure to research.
  - Better informed preliminary advising.
Time Limit


\textbf{Six Year Limit:}

- No standard GA appointment beyond year six from entry into program.
- A-priori does not affect student status.
- Exceptions rare (e.g., maternal leave)

\textbf{Self-supported Continuation:}

- Student status still subject to GSC review.
- Liable for tuition (may be out of state), health insurance etc.
- Continuous enrollment policy (university).
Time Limit

 Probationary Extension:

- Only for year 7. (No extensions into year 8)
- Subject to GSC approval:
  by semester & by petition w/advisor support.
- At O-Level ($1500/mo).

 Phase-In:

- For 2008 admitted cohort AU 2014 last regular (and AU 2015 last probationary) semester.
- For later admitted cohorts above rules apply.
Candidacy Examination

- **Time Limit:**
  - By end of summer following third year (that is, before fall of fourth year).
  - Should find advisor by autumn of third year.
  - Should already have idea of research topic.
  - No “Phase-In”. Effective AU 2014.

- **Written Portion:**
  - 10-15 page Manuscript on research topic.
  - Background material, and possible questions.
  - Literature overview + references.
  - Type-set (LaTeX).
  - Within 4 week period of oral – at least formally.
Candidacy Examination

**Oral Portion:**
- After written portion is approved – turn in at least 3-4 days before oral exam.
- 30 min presentation to committee. Not part of official examination – but part of program requirement.
- Two hour official examination. Focus on write-up but may also have more general questions.

**Goals:**
- Be ready to engage in research immediately.
- First exposure to scientific communication in written and oral form.
- Connect with research topic to other faculty in department.
Qualifying Requirement

เนื้อหาวิชาที่ต้องการ

- วิชาเรขาคณิต Abtract Algebra: Math 6111-6112
- วิชาเรขาคณิต Real Analysis: Math 6211-6212
- รวมทั้งหมด 4 "requirements" (หนึ่งต่อแต่ละภาคเรียน)
- ทรัพยากรกำกับการพิจารณา -- เพื่อปรับให้เหมาะสมกับผู้มีความสามารถที่กว้างขึ้น

เนื้อหาที่จะถูกพิจารณา

- เป็นผ่าน (passed) ถ้าเกรดเป็น A หรือ A-
- เป็นผ่านชั่วคราว (provisionally passed) ถ้าเกรดเป็น B+
- เป็นผ่านชั่วคราว (failed) ถ้าเกรดต่ำกว่า B+
Qualifying Requirement

**Examination:**

- Offered annually, just before start of Autumn semester.
- There are four examinations – one in each semester course (requirement).
- Each exam probably about 2 hours long.
- Similar in style to final examination of course, but may have additional difficulties.
- Graded by faculty committee.
- Outcomes for each requirement may be *pass*, *provisional pass*, or *fail*.
- Can be taken twice:
  - At start of first year or at start of second year.
Qualifying Requirement

Unconditional Passing Options:

- The pass level of each single qualifying requirement is the highest result of the following three:
  - First attempt at exam (summer of entry)
  - Course grade (first year)
  - Second attempt at exam (summer before 2\textsuperscript{nd} year)
- A student has passed the entire requirement if he/she has received a \textit{pass} in all four requirements.
- The examinations are optional.
- The course is mandatory – unless a student passes the first examination.
Qualifying Requirement

Provisional Passes:

- Students with a pass or provisional pass in each of the four requirements will be reviewed by the GSC before or at the beginning of the second year.
- Additional materials may be submitted by the student for this review.
- As a result a student may be allowed to continue pursuing a PhD degree on a “provisional basis” – subject to certain conditions.
- Conditions may include taking additional course sequences with minimum grades – and will be verified by the end of the second year.
- Typically at least two (of four) passes are required.
Qualifying Requirement

Fails:

- Students who do not receive at least a *provisional pass* in *each* requirement are normally not allowed to continue pursuing a PhD degree.

- The GSC may allow continuation of support in order to pursue an MS degree subject to academic performance and required time.
Qualifying Requirement

Transition Policy:

- Applicable only to 2013 admitted cohort. (current first year students)
- A requirement can be passed in the following ways
  - Course in first year with A- or better.
  - Course in second year with A- or better.
  - Passing old-style qualifying exam in first year (would cover both requirements in one subject)
  - Pass new examination at before beginning of second year.
  - Pass a special old-style qualifying examination at the beginning of Autumn 2014.
Other Requirements

 Bakery Requirements:

- Must be completed by end of second year.
- The 6000-level algebra and analysis courses *do* count towards breadth requirements (even if also used for qualifying requirement).
- Passing an examination does *not* count as course.

Invitation Requirement:

- From entry to submitting advisor change form, every semester. (already implemented).

Language Requirement:

- Essentially unchanged.