

At the September 25th 2014 meeting, Graduate Council unanimously approved a minor modification to the doctoral time extension policy. The current policy mandates a retake of the qualifying examination (QE) for approved time extensions of greater than 12 months duration. In many cases the student has remained continuously invested in their dissertation research and the QE retake therefore has little academic value; rather it further delays completion of degree requirements. There are however instances where the QE retake could be beneficial. For example, if a doctoral student leaves their studies for a period of time, upon return they may need to reconfirm their mastery of the field through the QE retake before resuming dissertation research. We are therefore proposing to modify the current policy so that on a case-by-case basis it will be the decision of the program whether or not the QE retake should be required.

Current Policy

TIME LIMIT FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES

All degree requirements for the doctorate must be completed within five years following the semester or summer session in which the candidate successfully completes the qualifying examination, but extensions up to an additional 5 years may be requested for a total of 10 years. Extensions up to 1 year may be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. Requests for extensions longer than 1 year must be considered by Graduate Council. All requests should be initiated by the Director of Graduate Studies. **If approved, extensions longer than one year will require a retake of the qualifying examination.** Failure to pass the re-examination will result in the termination of degree candidacy; a second re-examination is not permitted. Failure to complete all degree requirements within 10 years of initially taking the qualifying examination will also result in the termination of degree candidacy. All pre- and post-qualifying residency requirements must again be met if the student subsequently seeks readmission to the doctoral program.

Proposed Policy

TIME LIMIT FOR DOCTORAL DEGREES

All degree requirements for the doctorate must be completed within five years following the semester or summer session in which the candidate successfully completes the qualifying examination, but extensions up to an additional 5 years may be requested for a total of 10 years. Extensions up to 1 year may be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School. Requests for extensions longer than 1 year must be considered by Graduate Council. **All requests should be initiated by the Director of Graduate Studies and must include a recommendation on whether or not a retake of the qualifying examination should be a requirement of the extension.** **If requested,** failure to pass the re-examination will result in the termination of degree candidacy; a second re-examination is not permitted. Failure to complete all degree requirements within 10 years of initially taking the qualifying examination will also result in the termination of degree candidacy. All pre- and post-qualifying residency requirements must again be met if the student subsequently seeks readmission to the doctoral program.