



Purpose and Structure

The purpose of the preliminary examination is to determine whether a student's understanding of advanced areas is adequate to conduct independent research and successfully complete a dissertation. The examination is given in two parts, a written part followed by an oral part, and covers subject matter in three areas determined by the student's preliminary examination committee. The preliminary examination is intended to test a student's overall breadth in advanced topics as well as knowledge of his or her area of specialization, and the three areas should be chosen accordingly.

Administration

Scheduling and Outcomes

A student must make the first attempt by the end of his or her third year (sixth year if part-time) in the Ph.D. program. The student must request approval to take the examination from the graduate program committee at least two months in advance of the proposed date for the written part. The oral part must be conducted no more than one week after the written part.

The preliminary examination committee is responsible for conducting the examination and informing the student of the outcome. A student who passes the examination is considered a dissertator and is allowed to register for dissertation credits. A student who fails will be allowed to take the examination a second time within one year of the first attempt. A student who fails a second time will not be allowed to continue in the Ph.D. program.

Preliminary Examination Committee

A preliminary examination committee will be formed for each student taking the examination. This committee and its chair are approved by the Graduate Committee upon request by the student and his or her dissertation advisor. The committee chair must be a member of the Mathematical Sciences faculty other than the student's dissertation advisor. The other appointees must be members of the Mathematical Sciences faculty or faculty from other departments at WPI or other colleges or universities as may be desirable. The committee must have at least three members, including the chair.

Please fill in the information below, indicating your completion of a preliminary exam or your proposed timeline for completion.

Name _____ Student ID _____

_____ *print Advisor's name*

_____ *Advisor's signature*

Proposed Completion Date _____ (month, year)

Full Date of Completed Exam 1. _____ (Oral)

2. _____ (Written)

- Subjects 1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Committee Members

List committee members below, indicate committee chair and department if other than Mathematical Sciences or WPI.

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

All committee members must sign, and return the completed form to the mathematical sciences office, via sending to ma-admins@wpi.edu, and sending to the graduate program chairs by sending to gr-ma-grad-prog-chair@wpi.edu.

Pass _____

Fail _____

Conditional _____

Comments

print faculty member's name

faculty member's signature

print faculty member's name

faculty member's signature

print faculty member's name

faculty member's signature