

Oral Exam Guidelines

During the oral examination students present their work and answer questions by the committee. The committee evaluates at a minimum the following aspects:

- Ability to review literature
- Ability to formulate a scientific question
- Ability to collect empirical or theoretical support
- Ability to present scientific findings
- Technical knowledge and major deficiencies

It is expected that the student address these requirements by presenting one or more research problems. The student should carefully review each problem, exhibit knowledge of techniques required to solve the problems, propose partial or full solutions, and show prospects for further research, if possible. While the student may address more than one problem, the student should guard against simply reviewing a number of problems.

It is possible that the student has published results based on the presented research. This would be additional evidence of the student's research capabilities. Students must present work mainly done by them and should not submit a paper where they are not the primary author. If parts of the work were done with others, the shared parts should be properly attributed. Not disclosing sources or taking credit for work done by others are grounds for failing the exam.