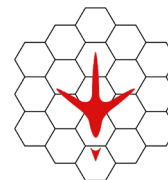




University of Puerto Rico
Río Piedras Campus
College of Natural Sciences
Department of Chemistry
17 Ave. Universidad STE 1701
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Chemistry Graduate Program Candidacy Exam

At the end of the first (1st) year in the Doctoral Graduate Program, the student will take a candidacy exam administered by the thesis committee at the end of the first academic year. The objective of the candidacy exam is to examine the student's fundamental comprehension of their doctoral project. The exam consists of a written and oral component based on questions assigned to the student by the thesis committee members within their respective expertise. These questions will be fundamental in nature, focusing on the research field of the student's doctoral project and relevant chemistry concepts. The student must provide a one-page overview (or a one-page Specific Aims) of their Research Plan Proposal to the thesis committee members in order for each member to prepare two questions. The thesis committee members may provide supplemental reading material to accompany the two questions that they assign to the student. The questions must be emailed to the Director of the Committee, who will make sure there are no duplicate questions and who will deliver all of the questions to the student. The student will choose five questions to prepare written responses. They will have a maximum of 14 calendar days to respond to the questions. The student may use textbooks and other references to respond to the questions in addition to any supplementary reading but cannot consult with another person other than to ask the committee members to clarify doubts. The responses to the questions must demonstrate original critical thinking and qualitative/quantitative analysis and must include appropriate citations.

Once the committee receives the responses to the questions, they will have 14 calendar days to evaluate the responses. The oral component of the exam must be scheduled after these 14 days unless agreed by the committee to be sooner. The oral exam must focus on but not be limited to the topics in the questions assigned to the student. The final evaluations are: Pass, Conditional Pass, and Not Pass. If the student receives a Pass, then they will be a Doctoral Candidate and be allowed to continue with their doctoral research. If the student receives a Conditional Pass, then any deficiency that the student presented must be resolved by revising their responses to pertinent questions where they demonstrated deficiency within one month following the oral exam. If the student receives a Not Pass, then they will have to repeat the oral exam in addition to addressing deficiencies demonstrated in their written responses to questions. *Students will be given no more than two (2) opportunities to pass the candidacy exam.* A student in good standing who fails this requirement will be allowed to pursue a M.S. degree. The student should apply for this exam by filling out Form C2 (Appendix C)