

INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DOCTORAL QUALIFYING PAPER
(Status: August 2018; corrected: June 2022)

All students must submit one qualifying paper. Generally, these papers will be a minimum of 5000 words.

Submission Deadlines

The paper and its oral defense must be attempted by the end of the semester following the semester in which philosophy coursework is completed.

The paper cannot previously have been accepted (a) as a term paper or (b) as publication at the time it is submitted as the qualifying paper. If the paper is based on a course paper, the student will have to show to the DGS how the DQP goes beyond the original.

The paper must be submitted by October 15th in the Fall semester, or March 15th in the Spring semester. Students who complete philosophy coursework during the summer must submit a DQP by October 15th of that same year.

Assessment

The papers will be assessed by a committee of three faculty members. Each reader will grade the paper (submitted anonymously) and provide comments explaining the grade.

The paper review committee will be constituted by the DGS in consultation with the Department Chair. The DGS will nominate and approve a chair of the committee. The chair will collect the grade sheets and comments from each committee member, tally the overall grade, and communicate these results to the DGS. The student shall receive each evaluator's comments.

For grading, a 4-point scale will be used.

The PhD passing grade will be **2.8 or above**

The Master's pass equivalency will be **2.0 or above**

The Master's score is self-evident from the rubric. A score of 2 is deemed Master's-level work, and an average of 2 or above will be the equivalent of a Master's comprehensive pass.

Using the rubric:

The rubric has four score categories (columns), and three horizontal content components (rows)

Each rubric **column** corresponds to a score level:

Outstanding = 4.0: Outright pass

Very good = 3.0: Some questions could be raised, but ready to go on to the next level.

MA Acceptable = 2.0: A reasonable Master's level paper with some deficiencies.

Unacceptable: = **Below 2**: A paper that cannot reasonably be expected to be revised to the appropriate standard.

