

Computer Science Qualifying Exam Assessment

Student Name
(last, first middle)

Comp ID
(e.g. mst3k)

SIS ID
(office use)

Area

The purpose of the qualifying examination is to determine whether the student shows sufficient overall potential to advance to PhD candidacy. In addition to a competent research project, the student must demonstrate sufficient background knowledge, analytical aptitude, and written and oral skills. The questions below provide a rubric for the assessment, and will also be used in aggregate (anonymized) for program self-assessment purposes. Not all questions have equal weight.

SCORING: 5 = excellent; 3 = adequate; 1 = unsatisfactory (or NA)

Score

Comments

1. Summarize the student's research topic and contribution

2. Problem definition

Has the student clearly stated and motivated the research objective, and the requirements for a solution?

3. Related work

Has the student effectively and clearly described prior work related to their research project?

4. Research Approach

Is the research well executed and appear to be correct? Has the student considered the extent to which the results depend on the accuracy of the parameters and assumptions? Has the student recognized any limitations of the work?

5. Degree of difficulty

Was the research project of sufficient difficulty (i.e. commensurate with a one-semester MCS project)?

6. Writing quality

7. Presentation quality

8. Ability to answer questions

Does the student adequately answer questions about their depth area in general and their research project in particular?

Overall Outcome:

If Outcome is "Fail: try again", what date?

If Outcome is "Fail: 2nd attempt not recommended", explain:

Comments and Suggestions to student:

Faculty Evaluator

Name

Signature

Submit this form with a completed & signed form: **Report on Ph.D. Exam**