

Centre for the Study of Theory and Criticism
Ph.D. Qualifying Examinations: Guidelines and Regulations

Ph.D. candidates are required to pass the **Core Examination** and **Field Study** before proceeding to the doctoral dissertation. The Core Examination and Field Study are to be completed during the second year of study. Students must declare their intention to take the examination by May 31 of their first year (Term 3).

General

1. The **Core Examination** is to be taken during a designated week in **September** (Term 4) or **February** (Term 5). Candidates have until **May 15** (Term 6) to submit the **Field Study**, and until **June** to have the **Thesis Proposal** approved.
2. Candidates are required to **declare by May 31** (Term 3) their intention to take the core examination in either September or February. Candidates are also required to declare their intention to take the Field Study by May 31. This should be done in writing (including by e-mail) to the Program Coordinator.
3. Any request for an exception to these regulations because of special circumstances (e.g., because of illness) must be put in writing and approved by the Graduate Committee.

The Core Examination. A qualifying examination in an area of concentration established by the Centre faculty for all students, to be taken during a designated week in September or February. notified of the results of the exam by the Chair of the examining committee. A candidate may fail and retake the Core Examination once (at the next opportunity, one term later). A candidate who fails the Core Examination a second time will be required to withdraw from the program.

1. Candidates will have two sittings of 4 hours each, two days apart, in which to write this examination. This format recognizes the scope and diverse range of the materials covered. No books are allo

The Field Study. An opportunity to define an area of interdisciplinary theory related to the student's dissertation project. It involves submission of a written text, followed by an oral hearing in which this text is discussed with the student by a three-person committee.

Candidates will first prepare and submit a **20-25 page text** based on a list of 25 texts (over and above any texts drawn from the Core Examination list), and selected in consultation with the supervisor and second reader. In addition to this 20-25 page text, the student should include a Bibliography of 25 works, and a **2 page synopsis**. These three components (20-25 page text, bibliography and synopsis) must be submitted **no less than two weeks** prior to the oral hearing.

The text and bibliography will then be discussed with the student at a "field study hearing." The Field Study committee consists of the supervisor, second reader, and a third person chosen by the

components of the Field Study

Step 3

Hearing date, determined by the candidate in consultation with the committee

Year II, normally 2–3 weeks after written submission

Step 4

Date by which candidate must communicate hearing date to Program Coordinator

Six (6) weeks before proposed hearing date

Step 5

Date by which Thesis Proposal must be submitted to and discussed with supervisory committee

Year II, June
(2 weeks after Field Study hearing)