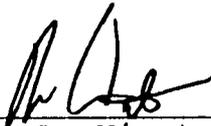




9. Does the student need to improve his understanding of subject matter related to his or her general field of research?
10. On the whole, is the student able to pursue and complete original research at an advanced level?



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Dr. M. L. Winston, Chairman  
Departmental Graduate Studies Committee

## SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

*Memorandum*

### DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES

TO: A. J. Watt  
Secretary  
S.C.A.P.

FROM: B. P. Clayman

SUBJECT: Ph.D. Candidacy Examination

DATE: April 4, 1991

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Below is the proposed addition to the Biological Sciences calendar entry, describing a proposed Ph.D. Candidacy Examination. It has been agreed to by the department and should accompany the proposal to S.C.A.P.:

" Each Ph.D. student is required to pass an oral candidacy examination prior to the end of the 4th semester in the program or second semester after transfer from the M.Sc. program. The examination will concentrate on the student's area of research and will follow submission of a written Ph.D. research proposal. The examination will be graded acceptable/unacceptable. Students whose examination is graded unacceptable will be required to pass a second examination within six months; a student receiving a second unacceptable rating will normally be required to withdraw from the Ph.D. program."



5. The exam will concentrate on the student's area of research.
6. It will be graded acceptable/unacceptable.
7. Acceptable can include recommendations for additional work. Course work or directed study may be suggested.
8. Candidates judged unacceptable would be required to have a second appraisal within six months. A student receiving a second unacceptable rating will not be permitted to continue in a Ph.D. program, except under unusual circumstances.
9. This proposal will not apply to Ph.D. students who have been enrolled for more than one semester from the date the candidacy exam is approved by the University.

#### Nature of the questioning

The following could serve as guidelines for posing questions and for appraising the candidate.

1. Has the student satisfactorily demonstrated how the proposed research logically follows from existing scientific knowledge and previous investigations in the subdiscipline?
2. Has the student satisfactorily demonstrated how the proposed research will contribute to the advancement of science in the particular subdiscipline?
3. Is the candidate familiar with relevant literature?
4. Are the objectives of the research clearly defined and achievable?
5. Has the candidate demonstrated sufficient knowledge of experimental design, data collection and methods of analysis to ensure completion of the research programme?
6. Is the time envisioned to complete the research programme realistic?
7. Does the candidate possess sufficient skills in written and verbal communication to complete Ph.D. dissertation requirements?
8. Does the candidate have sufficient knowledge of the discipline?

# SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

## MEMORANDUM

To.....  
Dr. P. Percival

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Chemistry

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Subject.....  
CANDIDACY EXAM - Revised

From.....  
Dr. M. Winston

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Chairman, DGSC

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Date.....  
25 January 1991

Attached is a proposal for a revised candidacy exam for Ph.D. students, to be implemented as part of Departmental policy. We request that the following be brought forward for discussion and vote at a future Faculty meeting.

### Purposes of a candidacy exam

1. To stimulate the student to prepare and defend a written research proposal.
2. To ensure that he or she has sufficient knowledge of the relevant literature and background information.
3. To identify the student's areas of weakness in the discipline or in subject matter relevant to the student's general field of research and to permit the examining panel to recommend courses or reading for the student well before the time of the defense.
4. To ensure that the student is able to pursue and complete original research at an advanced level.
5. Only minor attention is given to work already done on the candidate's thesis.

### Form of a Candidacy Exam

1. Normally an oral exam of not more than 2 hours duration, closed to the public.
2. Normally taken prior to end of 4th semester (2nd semester after transfer from M.Sc.).
3. Examining panel composed of supervisory committee, a member of the DGSC and one faculty member chosen by the DGSC in consultation with the Senior Supervisor. For some candidates an examiner from outside the department might be suitable. The committee will be chaired by the DGSC member.
4. The panel would be provided with an original research proposal of the student's intended doctoral research two weeks prior to the exam. This should take the form of an NSERC operating grant proposal. This would form the starting point of the candidacy exam.

**SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
MEMORANDUM**

To: Dr. B. Clayman, Dean  
of Graduate Studies

From: P. Dobud, Assistant to  
Dean of Science

Subject: **Ph.D. Candidacy Exam  
in Biological Sciences**

Date: March 12, 1991

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This is to inform you that the following motion was approved by the Faculty of Science Meeting held on February 25, 1991. Therefore, I would appreciate it very much if you would include this motion in the agenda of the next meeting of the Senate Graduate Studies Committee for consideration and approval.

***"To approve the proposal for a Ph.D. Candidacy Exam in  
Biological Sciences as presented in Paper FSG-5-91."***

P. Dobud

PD:rh:Encl.

c.c. M. McGinn,  
Assistant Director, Graduate Records