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.

There are 3 components (horizontal rows) in the rubric. The elements involved cover the central elements of good philosophical writing.

Each component will be given a whole number score (i.e., no fractions) and all three submitted to the DGS.

Setup, Framing, Conclusion:	/4
Engagement with Literature:	/4
Development and Defense of Thesis:	/4

The Committee Chair will average the committee scores and summarize the results for candidates.

If the paper receives a committee grade of below 2.8, the student will be allowed to revise and resubmit the paper the following semester. If the paper requires resubmission, the same committee (if possible) will receive the resubmitted paper for review. The student may also choose to submit a new paper but this paper will be subject to the same deadline as a resubmission. In such a case a new committee may be constituted as appropriate.

NOTE: If the student submits a new paper, the submission will still be considered a second submission (no further rewriting will be allowed).

Oral Defense

If the paper receives a committee grade of 2.8 or higher, then the student will publicly defend the paper orally no later than by the end of the week grades are due during the semester in which the DQP is submitted. The oral defense will be a Pass/Fail defense of the paper involving the three faculty members who graded the paper. The chair of the committee will schedule and oversee the defense. The defense shall be no more than 90 minutes. There shall be one round of questions with the possibility of a second round. The discussion will then be opened to the floor. Two of the three members of the faculty board must award a Pass for the overall grade to be considered a Pass. If students fail adequately to defend the paper they may be permitted one oral re-defense of the paper at a time designated by the DGS, no later than during the semester following the initial defense.

Completion of Requirement