

Computer Science Doctoral Qualifier System

Quals policy for students matriculated Jan. 2009 or later:

- 1) Take 91.503 and obtain a grade of at least B+.
- 2) Take at least one course in MS group number II and obtain a grade of at least B. If this course is in a sequence, then it must be the first course in the sequence (e.g. Data Communications I, not Data Communications II).
- 3) Take at least one course in either MS group number III or IV and obtain a grade of at least B.
- 4) The combined GPA for the 3 courses above must be at least 3.3.

Exception handling:

- A student who fails to satisfy these requirements will have the option of retaking the final exam(s) of the class(es) at the next offering of the course and achieving a score consistent with the required grade(s).
- A PhD student wishing to transfer in courses from other institutions cannot automatically use those grades to satisfy rules (1)-(4). He/she can either take the UMass Lowell equivalent course(s) or take the final exam(s) of the class(es) and achieve a score consistent with the required grade(s).
- Petitions can be submitted to the Doctoral Coordinator and Graduate Committee for exceptional situations.

Quals policy for students matriculated prior to Jan. 2009:

- A student who has obtained a grade of at least A- in the corresponding course for a qualifying exam is exempt from taking that qualifying exam except in the case that the student has already taken and failed that exam. This proviso applies to courses taken no earlier than Fall 2006.
- A student must pass all core exams in the maximum of three consecutive offerings of the quals.
- Once started, a student must take the exams consecutively during each given offering, unless the student has already passed all the core exams; during each offering, a student must take at least two exams, unless the student has already passed two core exams and has only one core exam remaining to take or re-take.
- The Area Exam is no longer required.
- A student is allowed at most two consecutive attempts to pass each part of the quals. That is, if a student fails a part on the first attempt, the student is allowed only one more attempt to pass it in the next offering.
- If for any personal reason a student cannot take an exam that he or she has signed up for, it is the student's responsibility to provide written documentation on the reason for his or her absence for approval. Otherwise, the student will automatically receive a failing grade for the exam.
- For any exception you must first obtain Graduate Committee approval.
- For more information, please check:
 - <http://www.cs.uml.edu/~wang/quals/quals.html>
 - <http://www.cs.uml.edu/~giam/Qualifiers/>