

Leading up to the General Exam:

1. Identify Thesis Committee - submit list of members to Tina Schulstad and Jon Cimuchowski in the PBio office
 - Deadline: End of Spring Quarter
 - The committee must be made up of 5 members - at least 3 must be PBio faculty and one must be a Graduate School Representative (GSR) who cannot be a member of any department in which student's thesis advisor has an affiliation
 - Identify a General Exam Chair (this can be the student's thesis advisor or any other member of the committee besides the GSR)
2. Meet with Committee Members - either individually or as a group
 - Identify one or two topics with each committee member (EXCEPT GSR) to focus on and develop a reading list from which the committee member will draw questions for the written and oral exam
3. Schedule General Exam - Send Request to Graduate School
 - Must be taken before the end of Autumn quarter of the student's 3rd year
 - E-mail scheduled day and time to Tina Schulstad and Jon Cimuchowski
 - Request to graduate school must be sent at least 3 WEEKS prior to scheduled day for general exam

<http://www.grad.washington.edu/forms/genexam.pdf>

General Exam Content

1. Thesis Proposal:
 - Deadline: submit the committee members 2 weeks prior to the exam
 - Should be no more than 5 pages, single spaced
 - Content:
 - i. emphasize published studies pertinent to the proposed research area
 - ii. develop the rationale for the proposed study, emphasizing gaps in the current knowledge in the proposed research area
 - iii. advance one or two hypotheses
 - iv. describe an experimental strategy to test the hypothesis
 - v. bibliography (not included in the 5 page limit)
2. General Knowledge Questions:
 - After the thesis proposal is received by the committee - each member (excluding the GSR) sends the committee chair 1-2 knowledge questions
 - The committee chair chooses 3 questions to send to the student
 - The student has 1 week to answer the questions which will be returned to the committee chair and provided to all committee members one week before the oral exam
3. Oral Exam
 - Student gives a 20 minute public talk about proposed research: experimental strategy and background information (preliminary data not required)
 - 1 hour (approximate) closed session follows where the committee asks the student questions about the proposal, experimental design and general knowledge