

ACADEMIC POLICY

Memo No. 6

Revised March 2004

DOCTORAL PROGRAM EXAMS AND COMMITTEES

There are three examinations required for the successful completion of the PhD degree in Drama. This memo outlines the requirements of each and explains the circumstance by which any of them may be repeated. Additional information regarding the establishment of a Supervisory Committee is also provided.

1. The QUALIFYING EXAM is given at the end of the first year. Its purpose is to evaluate whether students can think critically and comprehensively about the theatre. It focuses on, but is not limited to, the course work of the first year of study.

The Exam is in two parts. The written portion is completed over two days with each student writing for six hours each day. One day is devoted to comprehensive questions in Theory and one to equivalent material in Theatre History.

This written exam is followed by an Oral Examination of up to two hours in which the student is asked to discuss the written material. Students may PASS, PASS WITH RECOMMENDATIONS, or FAIL this exam. Failure constitutes dismissal from the program regardless of GPA in required course work. Under certain circumstances and upon recommendation of the faculty, one area of this exam may be repeated one time in September of the following Autumn Quarter. The exam may not be repeated if a student is judged to have failed both parts the first time.

2. The GENERAL EXAM is given in the second year and is also divided between Theory and Theatre History.

NOTE:

Students must have a supervisory committee established four months before the General Exam. The committee should be established in accordance with Graduate School guidelines, as outlined in Graduate School Memorandum No. 13. In addition to Graduate School rules, it is the policy of the Ph.D. program that students will have a minimum of two School of Drama faculty, and at least one outside (UW graduate faculty whose home department is not Drama) faculty member, on their supervisory committee.

The General Exam consists of two written essays of approximately 3,000 words each. Students are allowed two weeks to complete each essay. One is assigned during Winter Quarter and the other during Spring Quarter. Each essay is also the subject of an oral examination.

The oral portion of the Spring quarter exam is attended by the Graduate School Representative, and successful completion of this exam constitutes admission to Candidacy for the Doctoral degree. At that oral examination students must present a brief (3 - 5 pages) précis of their proposed doctoral dissertation.

At the conclusion of the examination, the committee will make one of three recommendations to the Graduate School: (1) that the student be passed into candidacy; (2) that the student not be recommended for further work; (3) that the student be reexamined after further study.

3. The FINAL EXAM is an Oral Defense of the completed Doctoral Dissertation conducted under guidelines specified by the Graduate School.

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Academic Policy Memo No. 6, first established October 1989.

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Faculty Approval: March 15, 2004