Chapman University  
Schmid College of Science and Technology  
PhD in Computational Science  

Qualifying Examinations

In order to advance to doctoral candidacy, a student must:

- Pass Qualifying Examinations on topics from the Core Courses
- Pass a Preliminary Oral Examination on topics from Elective and Research courses selected by the student’s Doctoral Committee

The Qualifying Examinations will be administered on the Saturday immediately before the beginning of the fall semester. Students are expected to take the Qualifying Exams after their first year. Students must pass the Qualifying Examinations before the beginning of their third year. Students who complete the MS in Computational Science at Chapman and transition into the PhD program must take the Qualifying Examinations before starting coursework in the PhD program.

The Qualifying Examinations consist of four sections – one for each of the four core courses (other than the seminar course). The schedule will be:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Foundations of Scientific Computing</td>
<td>9:00 am – 10:15 am</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematical Modeling</td>
<td>10:45 am – noon</td>
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<tr>
<td>Scientific Databases and Data Mining</td>
<td>2:00 pm – 3:15 pm</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High Performance Computing</td>
<td>3:45 pm – 5:00 pm</td>
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The grading of the qualifying examinations will be administered by the Doctoral Steering Committee.

Possible outcomes for each section of the qualifying examinations will be: Pass or Fail.

Possible outcomes for the overall qualifying examinations will be:

- Pass
- Conditional Pass (with recommendations for some corrective action - e.g., take a specific class)
- Conditional Fail (student gets a second chance to take examinations – either all sections or certain specified sections. ) Students will not be given a third chance to take any sections of the Qualifying Examinations.
- Fail (student is dropped from PhD program).

A Conditional Pass does not require a student to take a second set of qualifying examinations or sections of a second set of qualifying examinations - that is reserved for the Conditional Fail. A Conditional Pass will be changed to a Pass, Conditional Fail, or Fail decision once the requirements specified in the corrective action can be evaluated.

If necessary, an opportunity to retake the qualifying exams will be scheduled for the Saturday immediately before the beginning of the spring semester.