

Candidacy Exam Format

If **separated** from Prospectus Defense

Candidacy Exam in **4th** semester or earlier, after **all course work is finished**

Prospectus in **6th** semester or earlier, when the **topic of dissertation is identified and some preliminary work is done.**

The **goal of Candidacy Exam** is to check student's readiness to do research in chosen research area

Advisor and committee determine the exact format of the exam

Here are generic guidelines on the exam

- Consists of **two parts**: written exam and oral exam
- Research advisor forms a **Candidacy Examination Committee**, consisting of research advisor plus two CS graduate faculty that are familiar with student's chosen research area
- Advisor in consultation with the committee members determines a **set of papers and other material** considered fundamental in that research area, and informs student about this reading list
- After about **one month the written part** of the exam takes place; student gets a set of exam questions developed by the committee and provides his/her answers in written form.
- Each committee member gets a copy of student's **written answers to evaluate**
- the **oral part of the exam takes place in a couple of weeks**; during oral examination the committee members get opportunity to discuss with student his/her answers, to clarify some points, to ask few other related questions
- The outcome of the Candidacy Exam (in form of pass/fail) is the committee members' **judgment of whether student** is familiar with fundamental issues in chosen research area, adequately addresses them, and is ready for intensive research in this area
- PhD Candidacy Examination **Form get signed** (<http://www.kent.edu/CAS/CS/graduate/upload/Report-of-Candidacy-Examination.pdf>)
- After passing the candidacy exam, student can **enroll in Dissertation I**