

Department of Anthropology
Qualifying Exam for PhD Candidacy -- Guidelines (revised March 2016)

Students electing to take the Qualifying Exam for PhD Candidacy will comprise one bibliographic reading list made up of 45 – 50 texts (as an appropriate combination of peer reviewed journal articles and books).

The list should include approximately 20 texts with a theoretical focus (pertinent to the student's research) and 25-30 texts with substantive and regional relevance; the list should be divided into 2 sections to delineate into which category each text is being placed (because there will obviously be some crossover).

The bibliographic reading list must be submitted to all three members of the student's candidacy committee *at least* one month (or earlier) in advance of the first scheduled exam; faculty committee members may provide revisions and suggestions for the reading list.

Students must also submit to the candidacy committee at that time a draft of their dissertation research proposal.

Drawing from the list and the student's research interests, the candidacy committee will co-construct two questions for the candidate; each question will be given a one day examination period, of 9 hours total, with a 1 hour break (normally 9a-6p) on two consecutive Saturdays. The exam question will be emailed by the Chair of the committee to the candidate at the appointed time (and returned with email time stamp to all three committee members).

Students will write two 10-12 page papers (double-spaced); bibliography pages are separate from the page count.

Students should plan to refer to most of the texts on list in their essays, showing comprehensive understanding; other sources may be used (but students are not expected to).

It is the student's responsibility to schedule the two consecutive Saturday exams, the submission of the list and proposal, and to schedule the conversation/defense of the exam. In the fall, the conversation with faculty will normally take place during the first or second week of classes but the student needs to coordinate time/day with her/his committee members.

The second Saturday exam must be completed *at least two weeks* before the conversation with faculty takes place (giving the faculty time to read and evaluate the exam).