

The University Senate of Michigan Technological University

Required Oral Examination Attempts

([Proposal 29-14](#))

Senate Policy 115.1

Policy Statement

Graduate students who must pass an oral examination associated with one of the milestones required for completion of a graduate degree may be allowed a second opportunity to successfully complete each of the required oral examinations if this is allowed by the student's graduate program.

Policy Requirements

This policy applies to graduate students pursuing a degree that requires an oral examination.

Individual graduate programs may have a more restrictive policy (meaning that they may allow only a single attempt at one or more of the oral exams) but they may not have a more lenient policy.

Oral examinations can have one of the following outcomes:

- Pass
- Conditional pass
- Fail

Students who conditionally pass an exam but fail to complete the imposed conditions within a specified period of time will normally not be given a second opportunity to take the oral exam.

A student who fails an oral exam on the first try can request an opportunity to repeat the exam one time if this is allowed by the student's graduate program.

Reason for Policy

This policy clarifies that a student can, when allowed by their graduate program, request a second attempt at an oral examination associated with a milestone required for completion of a graduate degree.

Related Policy Information

Degree requirements for graduate degrees, including which oral examinations are required to complete a milestone for each type of degree are listed online:

<http://www.mtu.edu/gradschool/administration/academics/requirements/>

Exclusions

This policy does not apply to undergraduate students or graduate students pursuing a degree that does not require oral examinations to complete a milestone.

Contact(s)

<u>Office/Unit</u>	<u>Telephone Number</u>
Graduate School	(906) 487-2327

Definitions

Oral examination – an oral test at the graduate level. There are typically three oral examinations – Qualifying Examination, Research Proposal Examination, and Final Oral Examination

Required oral examination – An oral examination that is required to complete the degree.

Qualifying Examination – a test of disciplinary knowledge

Research Proposal Examination – test of capability to conduct independent research

Final Oral Examination – public defense of research

Pass – an oral exam result when a student has successfully completed the associated milestone examination.

Conditional Pass – an oral examination result when a student has not successfully completed the associated required oral examination until specific conditions are met within a specified period of time.

Fail – an oral examination result when the student has not successfully completed the associated required oral examination.

Examination committee – a group of graduate faculty formed following current Graduate School and graduate program policies to evaluate the student's oral examination.

Responsibilities

Graduate Student – Must be aware of the policy. If an exam is conditionally passed, must complete the conditions required to pass the exam within the allowed timeframe in order to complete the milestone. If an exam is failed on the first try, the student can request an opportunity to repeat the exam one time if this is allowed by the student's graduate program.

Graduate Program – Must either adhere to this policy or establish a more restrictive policy that only allows a single attempt at an oral examination (if this is desired by the program).

Examining Committee – Must communicate in writing the results of the required oral examination to the graduate program director and graduate program assistant. Must document in writing the conditions as well as the period of time the student has to address conditions of a conditional pass. Must monitor the completion of conditions for a conditional pass of a required oral examination. For a failed exam, the committee must also communicate if the student requested a second attempt, whether or not the second attempt was allowed, and the outcome of a second attempt if one was allowed.

Graduate Program Director and Assistant – Must monitor the results of required oral examinations by its students and communicate the results to the Graduate School and student using normal procedures.

Graduate School – Must monitor that the appropriate documents are on file to record the results of required oral examinations.

Procedures

In support of this policy, the following procedures are included:

Procedure on Required Oral Examination Attempts

Forms and Instructions

In support of this policy, the following forms/instructions are included:

Report on Final Oral Examination form

Report on Qualifying Examination or Research Proposal Examination form

Appendices

-None-

Additional Information

-None-

History

Approved by Graduate Faculty Council on March 5, 2013

Proposal 29-14:

Introduced to Senate: 9 April 2014

Approved by Senate: 23 April 2014

Approved by Administration: 27 June 2014