

CS DEPARTMENT POLICIES

PhD in Engineering, Applied Data Science – Qualifying Exam Policies

Doctoral students in the Applied Data Science program are required to take the qualifying exam. The detailed information and requirements are listed below:

The ADS doctoral qualifying exam is to be taken on three topics of a student's choice. The areas and topics are as follows:

- Topic 1: Algorithms
- Topic 2: Artificial Intelligence
- Topic 3: Bioinformatics
- Topic 4: Statistical & Regression Model

The test for each topic is an open-book, open-notes proctored written exam of two hours in duration. Students are allowed to use only department-supplied standard calculators as electronic aids.

The doctoral qualifying exam must be taken before the student completes 24 credit hours in the graduate program. Students who do not take the exam before completing 24 credit hours may be dismissed from the program. The doctoral qualifying exam is given on the Friday prior to the start of each fall and spring semester. The exams are given from 9:30–11:30, 12:30–2:30, and 3:00–5:00. Students must register for the exam with the CS Graduate Program Director at least four weeks before the date of the exam.

A student must pass all three topics to qualify for doctoral study. The qualifying exam may be taken up to two times. In case the student fails the exam on the first attempt, the student must take the exam again during the next semester. Tests on topics already passed do not need to be retaken. Conditional pass decisions may be made in borderline cases. Students who pass conditionally are subject to additional course work and/or re-examination (only one re-examination is permitted).

Completed exams will not be returned to students.