



# Doctoral Qualifying Examination Policy

## EE/CE/TE Graduate Program

### Contact Information

To schedule an appointment with EE/CE/TE Graduate Advisors [click here](#)

EE Graduate Program e-mail contact: [eegrad\\_assist@utdallas.edu](mailto:eegrad_assist@utdallas.edu)

EE Graduate Program office: ECSN 4.524

### Doctoral Qualifying Examination (QE) Policy

The EE/CE/TE PhD QE is an assessment of a graduate student's background knowledge and capabilities to do PhD-level research in the fields of Electrical Engineering, Computer Engineering or Telecommunications Engineering. The QE consists of two parts: background knowledge (Part 1) and research capability (Part 2.)

- **Part 1** involves taking and passing any **two** PhD Dissertation Advisor specified structured graduate courses offered by the Erik Jonsson School with a grade of B+ or better in each of the two courses. The constraints imposed by both the Doctoral Qualifying Exam Process Timeline and [course offerings](#) should be taken into consideration in specifying the two courses.

For admitted PhD students with a MS degree obtained at UTD, or for those with a BS degree taking 30 hours of graduate coursework at UTD, the Part 1 requirement is met if PhD Dissertation Advisor specifies two structured graduate courses as part of the MS degree completed at UTD or the 30 hours of graduate coursework at UTD, taken or to be taken, with a grade of B+ or better in each of the two courses.

- **Part 2** involves studying a topic as specified by a student's PhD Dissertation Advisor in the submitted [Doctoral Qualifying Examination Application form](#) and giving a public presentation with a public Q&A session. Example topics include, but are not limited to, a student's own published/submitted conference or journal paper, an independent study topic, a literature review, or a technical report. Presentation duration should be similar to the PhD preliminary exam presentation duration (e.g., 30 to 40 minutes.)

### QE Passing Requirements

Students must pass both QE Part 1 and Part 2, in any order, within three long semesters starting from the first semester of admission into the corresponding UTD PhD program (EE/CE/TE) for students with a MS degree and within four long semesters for students with a BS degree.

- A pass/fail grading for the **first filing** of Part 2 is assigned by the PhD Program Committee based on inputs (pass/fail and comments) from the PhD Dissertation Advisor, the faculty members present at the presentation to the PhD Program Committee, and the student's record at UTD.
- Students are given a second chance in each part, i.e. a maximum of two application filings is allowed for each part. In the second filing, the PhD Dissertation Advisor specified courses or topic may be stated differently than the first filing. The pass/fail grading for the **second filing** of Part 2 is done by a faculty committee formed by the PhD Program Committee.
- The pass/fail grading and any comments are documented on a [Doctoral Qualifying Examination Part 2 Evaluation form](#).
- The Doctoral Qualifying Examination results are conveyed to students by the EE Department Head or a designate.
- Any marginal, rare, unusual, and/or exceptional cases may be brought to the attention of the PhD Program Committee by filing a petition at [eegrad\\_assist@utdallas.edu](mailto:eegrad_assist@utdallas.edu). All documentations and/or evidence supporting a petition must be submitted as part of the petition to the PhD Program Committee.