

Thesis preliminary exam format: Physical Chemistry

Written component: A 1-2 page written summary (given to the committee three days before the exam)

Oral component: A 20-25 minute presentation (open to the public) with subsequent questions from a faculty committee (not open to the public).

The written summary and oral presentation should outline the background, aims, and methods of the Ph.D. research that will be pursued. If the student has obtained preliminary results, these should also be presented. A period of questioning will follow by a committee of three faculty members including the research advisor. For example, the student may be called upon to answer questions about pertinent background literature, to demonstrate familiarity with some of the techniques discussed, or to describe the significance of the research and the rationale for the methods to be employed.