



Mechanical Engineering

PhD Comprehensive Exam Evaluation – Form #2

Student's Name: _____ Student Number: _____

Date, Time and Location of Oral Exam: _____

Research Project Title: _____

INSTRUCTIONS:

The purpose of this comprehensive examination is twofold: (a) to assess the student's fundamental knowledge in mechanical engineering and of the subject matter relevant to the thesis; (b) to assess the student's ability to conduct independent research of the highest quality.

- It is recommended that the chair of the committee asks everyone to leave the room to discuss the examination logistics with the committee members.
- The comprehensive exam consists of a 15-20 minute research presentation session that is open to the public, followed immediately by a closed-door oral examination session.
- The public talk session can be followed by a Q and A from the audience. After this, the audience should be asked to leave the room to initiate the closed-door oral examination session. A short break can be provided.
- The closed-door oral examination session will consist of at least two rounds of questions by the examination committee members. Typically, the first round of questions will assess the student's fundamental knowledge in the discipline (e.g., about the topics assigned to the student). The second and subsequent rounds of questions will be geared towards assessing the student's understanding of the research topic presented during the public talk and the future plans.
- After all committee members are satisfied with the questions and responses provided, the student must be asked to leave the session so that this form may be filled in with input from all committee members and a vote of majority for pass/conditional pass/fail can be called.

Exam Evaluation: The committee should decide on the following two criteria:

- a) Whether the student possesses adequate knowledge of the discipline and of the subject matter relevant to the thesis
- b) Whether the student is able to perform independent research at the highest level as expected from a doctoral student.

Based on the above two criteria, the committee should reach one of the following three decisions for the Comprehensive Examination:

- a) *Pass*
- b) *Conditional Pass:* Provide specific details in terms of the deficiencies of the student, clear direction in terms of conditions and the time frame under which the conditions are to be met by the student.
- c) *Fail:* The committee will agree to either (a) reconvene within six months to conduct the re-examination; (b) recommend change of category to a Master's program; or (c) termination of doctoral program.

Comments on student's public talk:

Comments on student's performance during oral examination (by committee only):

Based on the previously mentioned criteria, the committee should reach one of the following three decisions for the Comprehensive Examination:

PASS

CONDITIONAL PASS

FAIL

Session Chair Signature: _____ Date: _____

Supervisor's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

GPD Signature: _____ Date: _____