

Assessment Criteria for Mathematics Education Qualifiers

The purpose of our math ed qualifying exam:

The written qualifying exam is one part of an overall evaluation of a student's progress in the program. It will be used for mentoring/advising as well as for evaluating your progress. As such, RUME I and RUME II projects will be included as part of the evaluation process.

What are we looking for in a student's written exam:

- "Accurate" understandings of the literature you've read
- Synthetic understanding of the literature you've read. That is, you use the literature to make YOUR point rather than list a sequence of isolated paragraphs about different articles. Put another way, you construct cogent, reasoned, and warranted arguments.
- Appreciation of constructs:
 - Ability to describe and explain the constructs people used and the work they did for them
 - Ability to describe and explain the role of constructs and the work they do in theory and explanations
 - Ability to describe and explain the work done by constructs in creating theoretical frameworks
- Meaningful use of terms – you do not use important terms without saying what you mean by them or what an author means by them

Qualifying exams will be put to the following uses:

- To evaluate the level of sophistication you have achieved
- To gauge your likelihood of future success
- To evaluate the quality of your writing and communicative abilities
- To evaluate the quality of your thinking
- To evaluate your understanding of the literature
- To gauge your likelihood of successfully completing a research dissertation in math education