

So you are ready for the DOCTORAL QUALIFYING EXAM!

1. Have an advisor?
2. Chosen your two area and two skills courses?
3. Performed research on a topic related to the area and skills courses?
4. Prepared a written report on the research project? If you have published a paper on this research and you had the primary responsibility of writing this paper, it can serve as your written report.

Now What?

1. Coordinate with your advisor and your research area group chair (a list of areas and chairs can be found here: <http://www.ece.iastate.edu/research/research-groups.html>) to schedule your oral presentation and oral exam. Each group has different preferences for qualifying exam scheduling and committee appointment.
2. Provide your examining committee your *written report* and the *list of your area and skills courses* at least **one week** in advance.
3. Make a presentation not to exceed 30 minutes. In your presentation, include a discussion of how the research conducted relates to the area and skills courses, and background literature. You may also include a discussion on alternate research paths attempted.
4. Be prepared to answer questions on (a) research project, (b) literature related your research, (c) area and skills courses as related to your research, (d) any other reasonable digressions. You may talk to your examining committee members in advance to avoid surprises.
5. All this needs to be completed within your first four (three) semesters here if you entered the PhD program with a BS (an MS).