

Preliminary Exam

Beginning with students admitted to begin graduate study in Fall of 2011, all PhD students in Animal Biology are required to take and pass the Preliminary Exam. This exam covers the breadth of Animal Biology and removes breadth from the Qualifying Exam. The exam is given during a limited number of days in September and all students are required to be present to take this exam. If a student does not unanimously pass the preliminary exam in the fall, the student may retake the exam at a specific time in December. A mixed decision on the second exam will be referred to the Executive Committee for final determination. The Graduate Advisors Group would consider any appeal. Details for the examining committee and exam from the degree requirements are indicated below.

Preliminary Examination Committee The Preliminary Examination Committee consists of three faculty members of the group, selected by the Graduate Committee and is the same committee (see exception below) for all students taking the preliminary exam that year. If one of these committee members is the major professor for a student, an alternate faculty member is selected by the Graduate Committee to replace that committee member.

Preliminary Examination

In September following completion of both quarters of the core course (ABG 200A and ABG 200B), students will take an oral preliminary examination (1-2 hours). The focus of this exam will be the material covered in 200A and 200B, the breadth of Animal Biology and include species comparisons of organismal biology. This exam ensures that the student has the necessary breath of knowledge in organismal animal biology. Students who do not pass the Preliminary Examination the first time will have one additional opportunity to take the exam in December of their second year. If the student does not pass the preliminary exam by the end of the 4th quarter, the graduate advisor will recommend to Graduate Studies that the student be disqualified from the program.