



Announcement Qualifying Examination

Doctor of Philosophy Program in Epidemiology (International Program)
Epidemiology Unit, Faculty of Medicine, Prince of Songkla University

The Qualifying Examination (QE) is one of the graduation requirements of the Doctor of Philosophy Program in Epidemiology (International Program). The purpose of the Examination is to assess whether the students are ready to conduct their research as demonstrated by their ability to formulate hypotheses and carry out the data analysis and critically discuss the findings.

Expectations: Students are expected to identify existing dataset(s) (preferably but not necessarily related to their thesis research focus), form hypotheses that address an existing knowledge gap in public health, present their analysis results in a clear and systematic manner, and discuss their findings in a way that demonstrates a level of understanding of epidemiology that is adequate for them to carry out their thesis research.

1) Qualification

Students are qualified to take the QE when they have finished all coursework. Exceptional students may take the examination at an earlier stage (depending on the program committee's approval).

2) Procedure

- 2.1 The student's main thesis advisor approves the student's request to take the QE, forms an examination committee, and schedules the examination date.
- 2.2 The student prepares and submits a **concept paper** of at least 3 pages in length to the examination committee at least 1 month before the examination date. The concept paper should comprise the following details:
 - 2.2.1 **Research Issue/Problem**, including the background and rationale, the existing knowledge gap(s), public health implications of addressing the stated knowledge gap(s), and the objective(s).
 - 2.2.2 **Methodology**, including description of the selected data set, measurements, and an outline of the statistical analysis plan (including the learning objectives).
 - 2.2.3 **References** (at least 5 sources) which show proper citation inserted in text and in the reference list.
- 2.3 The committee assesses and approves the student's concept paper for the next step

2.4 The student conducts the analysis and prepares an oral presentation of their QE work.

2.5 The student gives an **oral presentation** of their QE work, attended by the committee and fellow students.

3) **Examination committee**

The examination committee will include at least 3 faculty members. The Curriculum Chairperson will be the head of the committee, and the student's advisor(s) and an internal lecturer will be the committee members.

4) **Evaluation principle**

After the student's presentation, the examination committee will discuss about the student's performance. Using the rubric assessment scoring system, the committee members will reach a consensus to either "pass" or "not pass". The details of each result are as follows:

"Pass" - the student is qualified to an average performance of learning and understanding of the study topic. Concept paper and media presentation are quite well written and presented, in terms of technique and content.

"Not Pass" - the student could not present a clear hypothesis, methodology or interpretation of analytical results in a clear and systematic manner. Concept paper and media presentation are not well written and presented, in terms of technique and content. The committee will give recommendation to the student on how to remedy the situation. The timeline will be decided on a case-by-case basis.

Announced on 12 May 2020

(Professor Virasakdi Chongsuivatwong)
Doctor of Philosophy Program in Epidemiology, Curriculum Chair