

Graduate Department of Philosophy

Qualifying Form

Students planning to fulfill the Qualifying Requirement should complete this form and submit it to the Graduate Office by September 30 of the 2nd year of PhD4 or the 3rd year of PhD5. (See **timeline for the qualifying year on the next page.**)

Student's name _____ Student # _____ Date _____

Program (circle one): PhD4 PhD5 Date of entry into program _____

General description of Dissertation topic _____

General description of Qualifying Paper topic (paper due by Feb 15) _____

Thesis Committee

Chair: Print name _____ Signature _____

Member: Print name _____ Signature _____

Member: Print name _____ Signature _____

Member: Print name _____ Signature _____

Nature and Timing of Proposed Research Tool

(Be specific: e.g., the RT consists in taking or auditing a certain course, or passing a certain language exam. Also, say when the candidate plans to complete the RT requirement. The RT requirement must be completed by Aug 31 of the year following the qualifying year.)

N.B. A copy of the provisional Research Reading List, initialled by the members of the Thesis Committee, should be attached to this form.

2015-16 Timeline and Instructions for the Qualifying Year

Shortly after completing coursework, the student establishes a Thesis Committee consisting of three (or sometimes four) University of Toronto faculty members, with one designated as chair. Students are permitted to include one faculty member from another department, if appropriate. The Initial Qualifying Form, together with a provisional reading list, must be signed by all members and submitted to the Associate Chair Graduate by September 30. The Committee assists in constructing a research reading list and oversees the writing of an (article-length) qualifying paper on a topic in the research area. This paper should not be a survey of all the reading list materials, but should focus on some core philosophical questions relevant to that list. Students are expected to meet with all Committee members regularly during the Qualifying Year; in particular, students should meet with their chairs at least once a month. Meetings via Skype are encouraged when faculty or students are not able to meet in person.

Changes to the provisional reading list may be made at any point before the written exam, with the consent of the student and all committee members.

The qualifying year student submits to the committee a draft of the qualifying paper on or before the first day of classes of winter term, and receives written (and oral, if the student wishes) feedback from the committee within two weeks. The final draft is to be submitted to the committee and by email to the Associate Chair Graduate by February 15. By March 2 the Committee Chair submits to the student and the Associate Chair Graduate a written evaluation of the paper (not a grade, just qualitative comments, perhaps summarizing the comments from all members). Near the end of March, the student takes a written Qualifying Exam covering the paper and the reading list. This exam can be written on March 28 or March 31, from 12-3pm or 3-6pm (students can choose one of those four time slots). Then by April 15 the student takes an oral Qualifying Exam covering the paper, the reading list, and the written exam. Passing these exams constitutes satisfaction of the Qualifying Requirement. (In the event of a failure, both written and oral exams must be “retaken” and passed by August 31. Only one “retake” is permitted.)

In the event that a student decides to select a faculty member other than the chair of the Thesis Committee to be the thesis supervisor, or if there is any other change in the committee composition, a fresh Thesis Committee Form must be submitted to the Graduate office indicating the change.