

## **NRES Preliminary Exam Plan**

*To be completed 1-3 months in advance of the Preliminary Exam*

*Submit a copy to NRES Student Services Office*

Preliminary exam for PhD students consist of an oral exam and a written component. The two basic formats for the written exams that are strongly encouraged include: 1) a formal research proposal in the format suitable for submission to the NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant competition, or 2) questions prepared by members of the examining committee that are given to the adviser to administer. A typical format for the oral portion is an oral defense of your written proposal (or written responses to questions), and an oral exam of your general and specific knowledge related to your project.

The student will work with his/her adviser to develop an exam plan that will outline the three content areas for coverage, timing, and format for exam administration. This preliminary exam plan should include deadlines for written exam completion and the date for the oral exam. The plan will also indicate the exam committee chair (someone other than the student's advisor).

**Student's name:**

**Date for the oral exam:**

**Director of dissertation research:**

**Exam committee chair:**

*(cannot be student's advisor)*

**List members of the student's committee below, along with their departments and a brief description of the expertise they bring to the committee:**

<b>Committee member</b>	<b>Department</b>	<b>Expertise</b>

**List the core content areas to be covered in the exam:**

## NRES Preliminary Exam Format

The written portion of the preliminary exam will be in the form of:  
(indicate format below):

- a written proposal (NSF DDIG style is preferred)  
*Must be delivered to committee two weeks before the oral exam date.*
- prepared questions developed by the examining committee and adviser  
(indicate question style(s) below)
  - open book essay
  - short answer
  - review questions
  - closed book essay or short answer questions
  - technical, analytical questions that require numerical solution

Describe timeline and format for administering written questions  
below:

Student name: \_\_\_\_\_

Student signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Advisor signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Graduate coordinator signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

# Committee Expectations Prior to Preliminary Exam

**NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCES  
UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN**

*To be completed 1-3 months in advance of the Preliminary Exam  
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Version 1.0

STUDENT INFORMATION	
Student Name:	
Tentative Exam Date:	
Advisor(s):	
Examiners:	
COMMITTEE MEMBER #1	
<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Major Areas/Topics:</b>	
<b>Specific Areas/Topics:</b>	
<b>Suggested Reading</b>	
<b>SIGNATURE:</b>	<b>DATE:</b>

**COMMITTEE MEMBER #2**

**Name:**

**Major Areas/Topics:**

**Specific Areas/Topics:**

**Suggested Reading:**

**SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:**

**COMMITTEE MEMBER #3**

**Name:**

**Major Areas/Topics:**

**Specific Areas/Topics:**

**Suggested Reading:**

**SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:**

**COMMITTEE MEMBER #4**

**Name:**

**Major Areas/Topics:**

**Specific Areas/Topics:**

**Suggested Reading:**

**SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:**

**COMMITTEE MEMBER #5**

**Name:**

**Major Areas/Topics:**

**Specific Areas/Topics:**

**Suggested Reading:**

**SIGNATURE:**

**DATE:**