

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA AT CHAPEL HILL
DEPARTMENT OF CLASSICS
PHD IN CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY: GUIDELINES FOR EXAMINATIONS

The PhD qualifying exams are normally taken in a student's 8th semester in the graduate program (i.e., the spring semester of the 4th year), usually in mid-January. It is Graduate School policy that students must be registered during any term in which they take an exam. The student should consult the Director of the Archaeology Program at least one term before the examinations are to be taken. **The two essay examinations will be in areas determined by the student in consultation with two faculty members. These exams should be in the field of the planned dissertation topic.**

The PhD qualifying exams will take place over the course of two days. For each subject or topic covered by the exams, students will choose two (2) of four (4) questions. Each sitting of the exam will be four hours long (2 hours/question). Students are required to use a department-issued laptop for these exams. For departmental policy on the grading of graduate exams, see [here](#).

The two subject areas covered by the PhD qualifying exams should be *in the field of the planned dissertation topic*. The two exams should not however overlap significantly in the content of the reading lists and should consist of different but complementary or relevant areas of study, such as methodology and theoretical applications, material evidence and assemblages, historical context, cross-cultural or diachronic analysis.

The PhD qualifying exams should be structured to be as close to and as intensively engaged in the student's dissertation topic as possible; demonstrate the student's level of familiarity with a specific research area; and his/her ability to develop critical questions and new avenues for research. The exam essays should indicate that the student is aware of key questions and problems in his/her proposed field of study and is prepared to develop a significant research project.

Each of the two exams will have two readers who will assist the student in shaping the topic, exam areas, and reading lists. These readers will also compose and grade the exams. No later than the first week in October of the academic year of the Ph.D. exams, the student should propose two topics and two groups of two potential readers to the Department's archaeology committee:

PhD Exam 1 on Topic 1,
Reader 1, Reader 2

PhD Exam 2 on Topic 2
Reader 1, Reader 2

A student's principal advisor or prospective dissertation director will normally act as reader on at least one exam, while the other readers will be selected in consultation with the student's advisor as appropriate to the proposed topics. At least one member of each committee should be graduate

faculty of the Department of Classics but the second member might be a faculty member in another unit (UNC Anthropology, Religious Studies, Duke Classics, NC State History, vel sim). A third reader for each exam may be added at the discretion of the committee or the Director of the Archaeology Program.

In sum, for the PhD qualifying exams, students will develop two topics and a comprehensive reading list for each topic. The goal is to produce extensive reading lists that will yield four questions on each topic.