

## **New exam requirements (October 2006)**

Master's Degree:

1. The exams will be given at the end of the spring semester and just before the fall semester.
2. Students will have two tries each for the applied and theory parts of the master's exam. It is expected that students will take this exam as soon as they have completed the necessary coursework, typically at the end of spring semester of the first year. If a student fails one or more parts, he or she is expected to retake those failed parts at the next available opportunity, typically just prior to fall semester.

If a student enters with a master's degree in statistics and elects to take one or both parts of the master's exam prior to their first semester, then those parts are counted toward the two tries.

3. A student who fails both exams on both tries will be dropped from the MS/MA/PhD program and have any graduate assistantship funding canceled. This would occur prior to the fall semester in year two.
4. A student who passes the applied part but fails the theory part on both tries will immediately lose graduate assistantship support from the department.

Such a student may apply for a transfer to the MAS program. It is stressed that admission to the MAS program is not automatic. Subject to success at obtaining admission, the student could then provide their own funding in the second year, take any additional credits required by the MAS program, complete course work including 581 with the MAS project, and graduate by the end of spring semester.

As a second alternative, such a student could also petition to take the theory exam a third time. The success of the petition would depend partly on their grades and performance in 513, 514. Even if successful the department will discontinue any financial support. They would be expected to write an MA paper or MS thesis to graduate by the end of the spring semester. (We strongly recommend the MA degree rather than the MS because the MA requires only a master's paper and not a thesis.)

If not successful with either the MAS application or the petition, the student will be dropped from the program.

5. If a student fails the applied part both times but passes the theory part, funding will be canceled for the second year.

Such a student can petition to take the applied exam one more time. The success of their petition will be partly determined by their grades and performance in 511, 512. If successful the student can provide their own funding in the second year and write an MA paper or MS thesis to graduate at the end of the spring semester. (Again, we strongly recommend the MA degree rather than the MS because the MA requires only a master's paper and not a thesis.)

If not successful with the petition, the student will be dropped from the program.

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Ph D:

All Ph D students will be required to pass both parts of the master's exam prior to taking the second year Ph D qualifying exam. Only after passing both the master's exam and the Ph D qualifying exam will the student be admitted to Ph D candidacy. This holds whether the student will complete a master's degree or not. If they are unable to pass both parts of the master's exam (two chances for each part) then they will not be admitted to Ph D candidacy. Any exception to this rule must be approved in advance by petition to the Graduate Studies Committee.

Students have two chances to pass the Ph D qualifier. The exam is given at the end of the fall semester and at the end of spring, and must be taken as soon as the necessary coursework is finished. If a student fails to pass the exam by the end of spring, then it is expected that they write a master's paper in the summer and graduate with an MA degree. The department will provide no financial support to such a student beyond the end of the following summer, although they could remain longer with their own funding if they wished to complete an MS degree.