

Joint MU-MCW Biomedical Engineering (BME) Department Doctoral Qualifying Examination (DQE)

- Students entering the PhD program with a BS degree are encouraged to take the DQE at or before the completion of 30 graduate credits of didactic coursework. **MSTP students** and students entering the PhD program with an MS degree are encouraged to take the DQE at or before the completion of 15 graduate credits of didactic coursework. Given the time constraints to which **MSTP students** must adhere, they are strongly advised to take the DQE and advance to *doctoral candidacy* by the end of their second year in the BME PhD program.
 - It is strongly recommended that students complete the MCW offered course for F30/F31 grant writing in preparation for the DQE. The BME department Education Program Coordinator will be able to assist with timing and enrollment.
 - The DQE is intended to be both **diagnostic and prognostic**. The **objectives** are to evaluate the student's **a)** breadth and depth of knowledge in the chosen area of specialization, and **b)** ability to apply basic engineering principles and analytical tools to address integrative questions in BME topics related to the chosen area of specialization.
 - The DQE consists of two parts:
 - The first part involves writing a dissertation proposal in the form of an **NIH-style F30/F31 fellowship grant** proposal and submitting it to the student's Dissertation Committee **at least 2 weeks** prior to the oral examination.
 - The second part is an **oral examination**. *For this portion of the DQE, the dissertation committee members examine the student not only on their dissertation proposal, but also on the BME core competencies.* As such the student should email the committee members a **list of completed didactic courses** 2 weeks prior to the oral examination.
 - The student must submit a dissertation proposal and pass the oral examination to advance to *doctoral candidacy*.
 - Following the oral examination, dissertation committee chair should complete the following forms and submit them to MCW Graduate School (Ms. Sarah Ashworth, sashworth@mcw.edu) and copy Ms. Dinese Perea and the Program Co-Directors of Graduate Studies Drs. Audi and Dash.
 - Qualifying Examination Report Form
 - Dissertation Outline Approval Form
- <https://mcw.marquette.edu/biomedical-engineering/graduate-studies/documents/joint-phd-program-timeline.pdf>
- If the student fails the DQE, they will be given one additional chance to retake it, normally within 6 months of the first attempt. If the second attempt is unsatisfactory, no further oral examination is permitted. **Those students who fail the second attempt are permitted to complete a Joint Department of BME MS degree (thesis-based)**. The student's dissertation proposal and the *Qualifying Examination Report form* become a part of the student's permanent file in the Office of the Joint BME Department.
 - Contact Program Co-Directors of Graduate Studies & Education Program Coordinator for additional questions or concerns.

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Ms. Denise Perea (dperea@mcw.edu)