

New text for OE PhD Qualifying Exam (update text in catalog with this).

General Examination 1

~~After the completion of three Ocean Engineering core courses and three elective courses, the student will be required to take a General Examination 1, or Ph.D. Qualifying Exam.~~ **Students entering the PhD program with a MS degree are expected to take the General Examination 1 (PhD Qualifying Examination) after completing their second semester.** The primary purpose of General Examination 1 is to evaluate the student's ability, not only to demonstrate a thorough knowledge of Ocean Engineering course material, but to evaluate original thinking. ~~The written examination will be in three parts: One covering the core courses, one covering elective subjects and one is a review and analysis of a research paper. The exam on the three core courses will be four hours in duration and will require four problems to be answered. The electives exam will be a three-hour exam and will require one problem from each elective to be answered. The research paper exam will be a two-day take home exam requiring the student to answer questions on a specific research paper.~~ **General Examination 1 will be in three parts: Part one covering the core courses, part two covering elective subjects and part three is a pre-proposal that consists of written paper and an oral examination.**

Students with a GPA ≥ 3.5 on all courses selected for the General Exam 1 (with a GPA ≥ 3.3 (B+) in each class), are exempt from part 1 and part 2. (The students will be required to take a written examination only for those topics with a GPA of 3.0 (B grade) or below). For non-exempt students (i.e., GPA < 3.5), Part 1 will consist of an exam on the three core courses, which will be four hours in duration and will require four problems to be answered. Part 2 (electives exam) will be a three-hour exam and will require one problem from each elective to be answered. A new set of examinations will be prepared and questions and problems from previous examinations are not available to students. It is expected that the examination on the elective courses will focus on the student's area of specialization.

All PhD graduate students need to prepare a pre-proposal (Part 3). The pre-proposal (or different name) will consist of an oral presentation and a written paper based on several articles selected by a committee (including the advisor). The student will identify knowledge gap(s), do a literature review (with guidance from the advisor). During the presentation, the questions will be limited to those that help demonstrate knowledge important to the research topic/area.

~~An overall grade of 70 percent on each and every part of the written examination is passing.~~ **on part 1 and part 2 of the General Examination 1 and a passing grade in the pre-proposal constitutes successfully completing General Examination 1. Students who score below 70 percent on certain parts of the written examination are given the option of re-taking exams on areas in which they scored less than 70 percent before the beginning of the next semester. If the student fails any of the parts, the student will have one more opportunity to successfully pass the exam.** The student must score 70 percent in each subject that is retaken. Alternatively, the student may retake the entire

exam when it is next offered. ~~There would only be one opportunity to retake all or part of the exam.~~ General Examination 1 is scheduled immediately after the last day of the final examination period in the fall semester and in the spring semester each year. ~~The pre-proposal can be defended during the last two months of the semester including the week after the final exams period, if the advisor indicates that the student is ready.~~

~~For students~~ **Students** who have obtained the MS in Ocean Engineering at FAU, ~~General Examination 1 must be taken no later than the beginning of the third semester of Ph.D.~~ **will be allowed to take the General Examination 1 at the end of the first semester, if the student has completed the pre-proposal. Otherwise, the General Examination 1 must be taken no later than the end of the second semester of Ph.D. study.** Those admitted to the Ph.D. program directly after the B.S. degree in Ocean Engineering at FAU may take the examination after completing 24 credits of graduate coursework. ~~For students not so previously enrolled, the exam must be taken by the beginning of the fourth semester or as soon as it is offered thereafter.~~