Subject areas

Written examination: Subject areas are divided into two main groups as follows:

1. **Demography and Technique**: This is a three-hour closed-book and computer-based examination. The examination assesses overall knowledge about demography.

2. **Research methodology and statistics**: This is a three-hour closed-book and computer-based examination. The examination assesses overall knowledge about research methodology and statistics.

3. **Special area of interest**: This is a take-home examination of specialized knowledge about demography or about related special areas of interest chosen by the student, which may include research methodologies used in that area. Each student is required to propose his/her area of interest. The student must complete and submit the exam paper within three days.

Oral examination: The oral examination assesses the examinee’s knowledge about demography and related subjects:

Subject area selection

The student can either select only one topic or two subjects or all subjects at a time. Examinations of Subject 1 and 2 would be scheduled on separate days. Subject 1 examination would be held first. Subject 2 examination would be held in the next two days after Subject 1 examination.

Subject 3 examination could be held in the same/different round of Subject 1 and 2 examinations. However, the student would be allowed to take Subject 3 examination after successfully passing both Subject 1 and 2 examinations.

Failing the examination (score less than 60) of each subject would allow the student to take the first re-examination.

In the first re-examination, failing (score from 50 but lower than 60) would allow the student to take the second re-examination. Failing (score lower than 50) would result in studentship termination.

In the second re-examination, failing (score lower than 60) would result in studentship termination.

Each subject area consists of oral examination. The student must take both written and oral examinations of each subject area at a time.

The oral examination will be schedule on a separate date after the written examination end.
Process

1. The Ph.D. Program Committee will appoint the Qualifying Examination Committee consisting of no more than five IPSR faculty members, including at least two members of the Ph.D. Program Committee. The appointment must be at least two months before the examination.

2. The Qualifying Examination Committee will appoint sub-committees whose main responsibilities are to prepare the exam questions in: 1.) Demography and technique; 2.) Research methodology and statistics; 3.) Special area of interest. The Committee also assesses the student’s understanding of the relevant subjects. The Subcommittee consists of a minimum of two IPSR faculty members.

3. The exam questions on the special area of interest will be delivered to the student after the submission of a written examination paper. The student must submit the take-home paper to the Ph.D. Program Officer on the third day after receiving exam questions. Either a hard copy or an electronic file is accepted. The both hard copy and electronic file must be submitted within 72 hours.

4. The student will be informed about plagiarism. Those who commit the act of plagiarism in any form during the qualifying exam are committed serious offense and will fail Qualifying Examination.

This Qualifying Examination Procedure is effective on the 2016, academic year.