**Qualifying Exam Plan (for students admitted from Fall 2024)**:

**Oral Exam**

1. **Date:** Monday of the week before the Fall semester starts.
2. **Departmental Committee:** The Graduate Program Director (GPD) appoints four CEME members to the committee, ensuring representation from different areas. The GPD serves as the committee chair.
3. **Format:**
   * At the beginning of summer, the GPD identifies eligible PhD students (first-year students who have passed the core course requirements) and informs them and the committee members of the date, time, and procedures.
   * On the exam date, each eligible student presents their research, limited to 20 min.
   * Committee members ask questions related to chemical, environmental, and materials engineering principles based on the presentation. The Q&A session is limited to 20 min.
   * The committee then votes on the outcome: (1) pass, (2) conditional pass, (3) fail with an option to retake once, or (4) fail.
   * The GPD provides each student with the official decision in writing before the Fall semester starts. An electronic copy is also sent to the Office Manager for uploading to the student's file.
4. **Exception:**
   * Students who start in the Spring take the oral exam in the summer of their second year by default. However, with their advisor's approval, they can take it in the summer of their first year.
   * Students starting in the Fall who cannot complete the core course requirements due to unavailable classes in their first year can petition to take the exam in the summer of their first year with their advisor's approval. These students can receive at most a conditional pass, which will be cleared once the core course requirements are fulfilled.

**Written Exam**

1. **Date:** Within 30 months from the beginning of the program.
2. **Committee:** The Dissertation Supervisory Committee, consisting of at least four members, including a minimum of two CEME faculty members and at least one non-CEME faculty member.
3. **Format:**
   * Students who pass the oral exam submit their dissertation proposal as the written exam for their qualifying exam.
   * Upon successful oral defense of the dissertation proposal, the Supervisory Committee Chair submits a memo to the GPD to verify that the student has passed the written exam.
   * The student then submits the Application to Candidacy through the Graduate School’s Dynamic Form. With the GPD's signature and final approval by the Graduate School, the student is admitted to candidacy.