

PhD Student Timeline

- **PhD Committee and Program of Study**
 - Must be on file with the Graduate School within one year of being classified as a PhD student
- **PhD Qualifying Exam (PQE, a written exam)**
 - Complete PQE within one year of being classified as a PhD student
 - Students who do not have a Masters degree at the beginning of their PhD program could have their advisor request a "special circumstances" extension to the timeline if needed.
 - Failure to pass the PQE on time will result in the student losing one-half of their funding.
 - They have the opportunity for one re-take of the PQE, and if they then pass the re-take their funding could be restored.
 - A second failure of the PQE indicates the student is not suited to the PhD program.

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- **PhD Preliminary Exam (“Prelim”)**
 - After passing the written PQE, the student has one year to pass their Prelim
 - Consists primarily of a satisfactory presentation of the student's research proposal to their PhD committee.
 - A similar "loss of one-half of funding" penalty is the consequence for failure to get the research proposal approved in time.
 - The student would have the opportunity for one re-take of the Preliminary Exam, and if they then pass the re-take their funding could be restored.
 - A second failure of the Preliminary Exam indicates the student is not suited to the PhD program.
- This timeline is intended to ensure predictability, consistency, and structure for the PhD program in ECE.