



LOYOLA MEDICINE

Loyola University Chicago
Stritch School of Medicine

Qualifying Exam Information for Doctoral Students in the Bioethics Doctoral Program (D.Bioethics)

Before a doctoral student embarks upon their capstone courses, it is expected that they will successfully complete a qualifying exam. Here are some frequently asked questions about the qualifying exam:

- 1) Do I need to register for a course in order to take the qualifying exam?**
No, there is no course registration required.
- 2) When do I need to take the written and oral qualifying exams?**
Both should be completed just before starting the first doctoral capstone course.
- 3) Do I need to specifically prepare for the qualifying exam?**
No, this is an open book exam that should be an opportunity for the doctoral student to showcase their existing knowledge from the coursework they've already taken.
- 4) What kinds of questions are asked?**
The exam features essay-style questions. Typically, one question covers a broad area of bioethics and the other covers an area focused on a student's area of concentration.
- 5) How long do I have to complete the exam?**
Students are given a month to complete the exam.
- 6) How long do my answers have to be?**
Typically, 1500 -2500 words each.
- 7) Is there an oral component to the exam?**
Yes, there is an oral component. This is typically a conference call scheduled with the student and two faculty reviewers after the written responses have been submitted. This is an opportunity for the student to clarify and expand upon their written answers.
- 8) How do I know if I passed?**
The student will receive a letter from the graduate program director indicating successful completion of the written and oral exams.
- 9) Who should I contact regarding scheduling the qualifying exam?**
Email Robbin Hiller the semester before you plan to take the qualifying exam. She will set up a date for you to receive the exam, as well as a date to meet with faculty for the oral component. rhiller@luc.edu