

Spanish Ph.D. Qualifying Exam FAQs

How do I decide who will be on my committee?

In consultation with your Major Professor, you will need to select 5 faculty members and request their participation. You will specially need to select an exam chair who will coordinate the exam and ensure you're treated fairly. Three or Four of the committee members should be from our Spanish Department. One or two should be from outside our Spanish Department.

When do I need to finish my reading list and prospectus?

You will need to circulate both of these amongst your committee for approval. You will likely need to work through various drafts of the proposal with your Major Professor before circulating it to the others. The finalized drafts should be sent to the Graduate Program Coordinator 6 weeks before the exam. This will allow your committee sufficient time to read through them and thoughtfully construct your exam questions based on them.

How long is the written exam?

Your written exam will be held over two (not necessarily consecutive days) from 8am to 5pm with a lunch break of 30-60 minutes.

I am a linguistics student. What if I complete a Qualifying Paper?

In that case, your second day of written exams will only be a half-day, 8am-12:00pm.

When is lunch?

You may use the restroom and take your lunch break at times that are convenient but you may not speak to anyone regarding the exam or consult any references during your lunch or bathroom breaks.

What should I bring?

You may bring food, drinks, and lucky pencils to the exam. That's it. (Staff will bring scratch paper for you.)

Can I use my own computer?

No, because it is a closed-note exam, you may not use your personal computer. The laptop you use will not be able to access the internet. If you use a USB keyboard at home, you are welcome to bring it and use it with the exam computer. If you would like a mouse or usb keyboard to be provided, those are available upon request. You are encouraged to visit staff the day before your exam to ensure that the keyboard language settings are as you prefer.

When will it be held?

Staff will schedule your exam once they receive your application for the QE. The application should be turned in at least 1 month prior to the exam. When you turn in your application, please indicate any preferences with regard to the timing of the exam.

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Where will it be held?

Your exams will take place in Sproul libraries or conference rooms. Staff will inform you of the location once the exams are scheduled.

What about the oral exam?

Ph.D. students have a follow-up oral exam that lasts 2 hours. There should be at least a 1 day gap between the oral and written exam so that your committee has the opportunity to read your exam responses. Your written exams, works on your reading list, and your prospectus will all be discussed at the oral exam.

For more info, see <http://spanish.ucdavis.edu/en/handbook-phd> and <http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/programs/degreq/2011-gspa.pdf>. If you have additional questions, please consult the staff or faculty advisers.