

Scholarly Qualifying Paper Content and Format Specifications

RSED'S Policy

voted on and approved by RSED faculty
January 11, 2006
Department of Rehabilitation & Special Education
College of Education
Auburn University

Purpose: The Ph.D. student will complete a comprehensive scholarly research review and analysis of a professional topic chosen by the student and his/her major professor. The content is related to a research area relative to the student's professional interest. The student is expected to work closely with the major professor and committee members throughout the process. Completion (i.e., approved by the committee) is a prerequisite for taking the written doctoral comprehensive exam.

Format: The qualifying paper must be formatted according to APA style guidelines (5th Edition). The paper will be double-spaced and will be no less than 50 pages in length. All papers should include a title page and abstract. A reference list, prepared according to APA style will appear at the end of the paper. Typically, papers will contain 75-100 professional references.

Content: The qualifying paper will provide a comprehensive and integrative review of the approved topic. The paper will be evaluated utilizing the following six criteria:

- Does the paper integrate research findings?
- Is the paper a comprehensive review of the literature?
- Does the student provide an analytical and theoretical frame of reference?
- Does the paper articulate applications to the field?
- Does the paper provide a historical review of the topic?
- Are methodological issues regarding earlier research discussed and resolved?