

EE-S PhD
Screening, Qualls, and Defense

Michael G. Safonov
EE-S

Steps to PhD

1. Screening Exam
2. Qualifying Exam
3. Dissertation Defense

REFERENCES

- USC Catalog: **General Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree**

<http://www.usc.edu/dept/publications/cat2008/uscgraduate/policies.html>

- EE Graduate Student Handbook
Department of Electrical Engineering
Systems
Ph.D. Screening Exam Information

http://ee.usc.edu/students/graduate/phd_screening_info.htm

USC Catalog

- **Screening Procedures**

A screening examination or other procedure designated by the department or program is to be administered before the student has taken more than 24 units (including research courses). Passing this procedure is prerequisite to continuation in the doctoral program. Students who fail the screening procedure will be advised that they are not recommended to continue in the Ph.D. program and that any additional work may not be counted toward the degree. Failure to undertake the screening procedure before completion of 24 units of course work may jeopardize additional units. Ideally, a faculty member will be appointed to serve as the student's administrative advisor until the student establishes an approved guidance committee.

EE-S Department

- You must pass the screening exam no later than two years from date of admission into the Ph.D. program
- graduate GPA at USC is 3.5 or higher
- You are allowed two attempts
- Apply at beginning of Semester
 - application may be obtained in EEB 100

EE-S Screening Procedure

- Apply in EEB 100 at beginning of semester
 - Name/address/photo
 - Degrees & universities
 - GRE
 - Publications
 - Choose one of four areas:
Computers/Controls/Signal Proc/Comm
 - List of USC Grad courses, grades & GPA (>3.5)
 - Advisor Name (your advocate)
- Prescreening meeting (1 month prior to Exam)
- Screening (about 12th Week)

Four exams in EE-S

- Each of the four groups has its own exam
 - Computers
 - Controls
 - Communication
 - Signal Processing
- You choose your exam when you apply
- Only need to pass one exam required even if you change areas later

The Prescreening Meeting

- Each group has its own pre-screening
- Briefing on procedure Depending on group
- You may have to choose elective options

The Screeing

- May be oral, written or both
- Computers: Written part & Oral (1-on-1)
- Controls: Oral (all-on-1, done in 1 hour)
- Comm: Oral (1-on-1)
- SIPI: Oral (1-on-1)

What happens next

- Faculty Group Meeting:
 - Scores in each assigned subjects summed
 - Scored Ranked
 - GRE's and GPA's considered
 - Publications considered
 - Group faculty Vote recommendaiton
- Department Meeting (end of semester)
 - Faculty discuss and final vote to approve or change
 - Final decision on each case by up-down vote
- Pass/Fail notice (letter from EE-S department chair)

What if I fail?

- One second try allowed (no more)
- Faculty who examined you will explain your weak areas, and where you need to improve
- Study and try
- About 50% pass each time

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Good Luck!