

Graduate Program Committee
Department of Linguistics
Simon Fraser University
Regulations in effect as of July 2014

PhD students should complete two Qualifying Papers in the second year of their program. The papers help provide breadth, but also focus the scope of the future thesis. We envision a situation where one paper is an extended and improved version of a final paper in a course, and the other one an aspect of the thesis, such as a small pilot experiment, or a survey of the field the thesis will be carried out in (but more extensive and perhaps more critical than a mere literature review). Ideally, one paper should provide breadth (for the thesis area of research and for the student training in general).

The Qualifying Paper course carries six credits (i.e., full-time equivalent), but the credits cannot count towards the minimum 20 credits of coursework required of PhD students. QPs are assessed as pass/fail (satisfactory/unsatisfactory).

The proposed schedule for a PhD student is presented in Table 1.



After approval by the QP committee, the student should send the plan to the Graduate Program Assistant. The plan should also include information on which QP this is (QP I or II), whether it is related to the thesis or not (i.e., breadth QP, thesis-related QP, or second breadth QP), and, if QP II, the topic of QP I. The Graduate Studies Committee approves this plan (or requests modifications), and communicates so to the student and the QP committee. All the information is recorded in a form that is placed in



Performance at the poster session is not part of the evaluation, but it is a requirement of the course, and the grade may be changed retroactively if the presentation is not completed.

Ling 890 and 891 are offered in Fall and Spring, respectively. If students finish their QPs off schedule, then they do the presentation the next time 890/891 is offered. If two QPs are finished in the same semester, then the student should do two poster presentations in the same semester.

A record of each QP paper, together with a copy (physical or electronic) is placed in the

Publication of the QPs, or at least of the abstracts, will likely be made through the departmental web page.

QPs are assessed on a pass/fail basis (satisfactory/unsatisfactory). When QP I (Ling 894) is evaluated favourably

REGULATIONS FOR QUALIFYING P

