

DEPARTMENT OF GREEK, LATIN, AND ANCIENT MEDITERRANEAN STUDIES
Junior Qualifying Examination Guide
Rev. Fall 2022 | Effective 2022–2023

Overview and Objectives

One of the goals of the Greek, Latin, and Ancient Mediterranean (GLAM) Studies major is to enable students to execute in-depth, independent research in the discipline during the senior thesis. Critical to this goal is developing skills in the analysis and assessment of both primary sources (i.e., literary texts, material objects, documents, etc.) and secondary scholarship. The first part of the Junior Qualifying Exam is the qualifying paper, which tests the following:

1. The ability to generate questions about and analyze a primary source.
2. The ability to comprehend, summarize, and engage critically with secondary scholarship.
3. The ability to produce a clear and structured argument based on primary and secondary sources.

The second part of the Junior Qualifying Exam is the oral examination, which tests the following:

4. The ability to defend, explain, and further explore submitted written work.

Students may not advance to senior status or register for Senior Thesis until they have passed the Junior Qualifying Examination.

Format

Every GLAM major is expected to write their qualifying paper in one of their 200- or 300-level GLAM courses (excluding Latin 201 and Greek 201). Instructors for these courses will designate qual-eligible assignments that will have the following common components, either as a single paper or as a series:

1. An analysis of a primary source (close reading, analysis, interpretation, not just plot summary, etc.).
2. An assessment and comparison of two secondary sources.
3. A synthesis of (1) and (2). This synthesis may take various forms as designated by the instructor.

This paper (or series of papers) is to be approximately 1800 words in length.

Scheduling

A student may choose any qual-eligible paper completed in their sophomore or junior years as their qualifying paper. In order to benefit from as many GLAM classes as possible, however, students should generally not attempt to pass the qual until the second semester of junior year. Exceptions may be granted in special circumstances, e.g., for students studying abroad.

The qualifying paper must be submitted by the end of the twelfth week of the second semester of junior year. The oral examination will normally be completed before the end of exam week. Each student will defend and discuss the paper with two department faculty for approximately thirty minutes.

Evaluation

The adviser and first reader will evaluate the qual as a pass, conditional pass, or a fail. In order to pass the qual, students must meet all of the following criteria:

1. Analyze a primary source.
2. Summarize, engage critically with and utilize secondary scholarship.
3. Produce an argument anchored in analyses of primary sources and secondary scholarship.
4. Produce a clear and well-structured argument.
5. Articulate, defend, and explore that argument orally.
6. Cite scholarship and other sources correctly and honestly.
7. Produce a clean final document with minimal errors of formatting, spelling, grammar, etc.
8. Complete an assignment of the assigned length.
9. Meet all deadlines.

A passing result is immediately reported to the Registrar; the student will then be permitted to register for Senior Thesis. In the event of a conditional pass, the supervising professor and the first reader will set the terms of the conditional pass, to be completed in a timely fashion by a deadline agreed upon with the student. In the event of a failing qual, the student must undertake a new qual in a different GLAM course. After the oral examination, each student will receive written feedback in the form of a qual report, which will summarize strengths and weaknesses in the process, product, and oral examination; outline conditions for a conditional pass if applicable; and make recommendations for a successful thesis.

Assignments that are eligible as qualifying papers are graded solely by the supervising professor and are counted towards the final grade according to the criteria of the course.