

UNIVERSITY of
HOUSTON
STUDENT GOVERNMENT ASSOCIATION

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Sponsor(s): Speaker Cockrell, Sen. Zeidat, Sen. Soliman, Sen. Jaclyn Nguyen, Sen. Hubbard, Sen. Chowdhury, Sen. Luong, Graduate & Professional Student Association

Committee: Graduate & Professional Students

Draft: Vote

**Enforcement of “Study Guides” for Qualifying Exams in Doctoral Programs for
Standardization and Student Guidance**

Whereas, doctoral students are required to pass a qualifying examination (QE) before being classified as PhD candidates;

Whereas, the nature of these qualifying exams varies across programs and may include oral presentations, written examinations, or other formats;

Whereas, the qualifying exams are intended to be comprehensive, often allowing professors significant discretion in setting questions and determining the level of difficulty;

Whereas, this discretion can lead to the neglect of study guides provided by the department in preparation for these examinations;

Whereas, a study guide typically includes a list of recommended books and literature for students to review in preparation for the qualifying exams, and departments may issue these guides upon student enrollment;

Therefore, be it resolved by the Student Government Association of the University of Houston:

Each department shall be required to ensure that its qualifying examination committee adheres to the study guide provided in advance of the examination;


Be it further resolved, departments are encouraged to issue a study guide prior to each qualifying exam to assist students in their preparation;

Be it further resolved, the department chair shall be responsible for ensuring that the qualifying examination committee follows the guidelines set forth in the study guide;

Be it further resolved, in the event of a grievance raised by a student, the department chair or a designated hearing officer shall convene a faculty meeting to review and resolve the issue. The involved qualifying exam committee members shall be excluded from this meeting. The purpose of the meeting is to determine whether the questions in question were drawn from the material listed in the study guide. The decision reached at the conclusion of this meeting shall be final;

Be it further resolved, in case if material is found out of the "study guide", the faculty meeting can decide to nullify the relevant question(s) or provide appropriate resolution;

LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the 61st Student Government Association affirms its position to support the Graduate and Professional Student Body in having "Study Guides" for standardized testing at the University of Houston.



Tavagoh Cockrell
Speaker of the Senate

Date of Senate Approval: 2/28/25