

## **Department of Chemistry Examination Part I for Admission to Candidacy for the Doctoral Degree**

Part IV A of the IDPBS Guidelines states that students should take a written qualifying examination prior to the Comprehensive Preliminary Examination (Part IV B). Each member of the student's thesis committee should compose one written question that is appropriate to the training coursework and potential field of study of the student. Questions will be sent to the thesis advisor to be compiled and evaluated for suitability. The thesis advisor has the authority to request that a question be rewritten if deemed unsuitable. Each question should be graded by its author; but the student's performance on all questions should be considered by each member of the committee. Approval of the student's performance will be by a roll call vote of the thesis committee with no abstention. A passing vote consists of no more than one negative vote.

This part of the candidacy exam is designed to test the student's ability to critically examine a problem, search the literature and formulate a solution or answer. Each question should be construed such that they are answerable in a few paragraphs (within 1 to 2 pages not including figures or references). Once presented with the questions, the student will have two weeks to complete the written exam. The faculty generating the exam should keep this timeframe in mind when composing their question. The exam is considered open-source but the student should not ask faculty or fellow students direct questions about the exam material.