

# Graduate program

Sept. 24, 2004, Laszlo Mihaly

- 40 Ph.D. + 7 exchange students
- Orientation/Advising/TA training
- Qual and Comp exams

## NEED YOUR HELP:

- Make sure your students advance to candidacy as soon as possible (Oral Exams!)
- Participate in Friday Research talks (see Emanuel Strauss)

## Proposed change in Qual exam

Starting in the Fall 2005 Semester, the Qualifying Exam will be administered during the orientation. The four parts of the exam will be put together, proctored and graded by four ad-hoc committees set up by the Graduate Program Director. Each committee should include current and past instructors of the corresponding core courses and members of the Graduate Exams Committee. The Chair of the Graduate Exams committee is responsible for producing the final text of the exam. The results of the exam ("did not pass", "passed at the MA level", "passed at the Ph.D. level") should be approved by Graduate Exams Committee before the first day of classes, so that students can be advised and registered to the proper courses at the regular time.

This amendment does not change the rules concerning the Comprehensive Exam, which is still going to be administered during the first week of classes, and graded at the faculty meeting.

(Change the name of the exam to Placement Exam)

# Notes

- Past experience shows that we can not have a properly attended faculty meeting before classes start. That is the reason this exam must be graded without fac. meeting. Also, we must have a Faculty meeting for the Comp Exam, and two meetings one week apart is not practical
- We need four separate subcommittees, otherwise there will be too many people present. I assume that each committee will have two or three past/future instructors, a random member of the exams committee and the Chair of the exams committee; a total of four-five people.
- It is perfectly possible that we will ask someone to serve on two of these subcommittees (eg.: finished teaching QM, starts teaching EM)
- Producing the problems will not be a long process, it can be done in one or two meetings of each committee.
- The problems will be similar in nature to exam problems given in core courses and generally cover the material of the class.
- Problems will be no longer associated to faculty members by name.
- Grading will be shared between subcommittee members
  
- Divided opinions about the name change.

# Proposed change in the Masters Program

The requirements for the Master's degree can be satisfied in two ways. Requirements in the "No thesis" option:

- having a B- or better grade in the core courses, or passing the corresponding parts of the Qualifying exam at the Masters level
- passing the written Comprehensive exam at the Masters level
- passing PHY 515, 598 and 599 at B- or better

Requirements in the "Thesis" option:

- passing PHY 598 and 599 at B- or better
- passing at least one more graduate course, approved by the GPD, with a grade of B- or better.
- writing a Masters thesis

If a thesis is submitted, it must be prepared in accordance with the guidelines presented in the university's "Guide to the Preparation of Theses and Dissertations." The thesis should be based on a major project which is the main focus for a year of the student's work. Multiple authorship of a thesis is not allowed. "

# Notes

- The first option is the same as the current practice.
- The second option is for exchange students
- The "one more graduate course" is either a breadth course or a core course