

Proposal to revise School of Education policy on qualifying exams

Presented to GSC September 25, 2014

In the fall of 2013 ELPS brought a proposal to the Graduate Studies Committee regarding our current requirement for doctoral students majoring *and* minoring in the School of Education to take minor quals. Current policy states that we *must* offer minor quals to doctoral students who are both majoring and minoring in the School of Education. The committee asked GSO to consult with the department chairs to see whether there were objections to changing this policy and whether anyone could remember why the policy was in place.

Responses indicate that we do not seem to have an organizational memory of the reason for this policy and neither departments nor individual graduate programs have an interest in preserving it.

Here's the relevant part of the Bulletin (current policy):

A minor area qualifying examination is also required for all education majors who are minoring in another education program area. Students whose minor is outside of education may or may not have to take a minor examination, depending on the policy of the minor department. Students with interdepartmental minors must take a minor qualifying examination if their minor member is an education faculty member or if the majority of their minor course work is in education. Doctoral students whose major is outside of education, and who are minoring in education, may or may not be required to take qualifying examinations, depending on the judgment of the minor representative.

	Minor in Education	Minor outside Education
Education Major	Minor qualifying examination required	Depends on policy of minor department
Non-Education Major	Depends on judgment of minor representative	N/A

The proposed revision to the bulletin would remove this requirement to hold minor quals for doctoral students who major and minor within the School of Education. It should be noted that a program requiring a qualifying exam for doctoral students minoring with them would have to make this requirement of *all* doctoral students minoring with them, whether the students' major is inside or outside the SoE. Programs intending to retain the requirement for minor qualifying exams will need to bring this program revision forward for GSC and Policy Council approval.

A minor area qualifying examination is required depending on the policy of the minor program. Programs requiring the qualifying examination for doctoral minors must require it for all students in that doctoral minor.