

**IU HESA QUALIFYING EXAM**  
**First Part Question Topics**  
**2023–2024 List**

**For use from July 1, 2023 thru June 30, 2024**

Prepared by: Thomas F. Nelson Laird

Advisors will narrow this list down for each student taking the qualifying exam. The advisor will pick between 4 and 6 topics, making sure that the topic is not closely related to the topic for the second question, which typically focuses on the student's dissertation research interests.

- Discounting tuition
- Reducing student loan debt
- Creating gender justice in higher education
- Improving college teaching accounting for disciplinary differences
- Compensating student athletes
- Protecting academic freedom
- Creating equitable high-impact practices
- Influencing higher education through philanthropy
- Recruiting and retaining faculty of color
- Reimagining liberal education
- Evaluating the value of co-curricular and/or out-of-class student learning
- Internationalizing higher education research
- Leading morally in higher education
- Funding special mission institutions of higher education
- Adapting to the impending “enrollment cliff”
- Organizing/unionizing among graduate student workers
- Preserving or ending tenure for faculty