

## **Bioengineering Qualifying Examination: Exam Committee Guidelines**

You are receiving this document because you have agreed to participate as a committee member for one or more of the qualifying examinations for PhD students in the Bioengineering department.

The objective of the qualifying exam is to assess whether the student is prepared to succeed in the PhD program. It is not an evaluation of the student's progress on a thesis project, and as such no preliminary data are required or expected for the qualifying exam. The general topic of the qualifier will be submitted by the advisor to the Graduate Examinations Committee (GEC), and it should not exactly be the student's intended thesis project. The student is then expected to prepare both a written document and an oral presentation on a focused hypothesis based on the provided topic. The purpose of this exam is to evaluate the student's ability to generate their own engineering scientific questions, to generate an approach to address this question, and an ability to contextualize the results. As such, the student is not allowed to consult anyone in the preparation of the written report or the oral presentation.

Please consult the provided set of student and advisor instructions to familiarize yourself with the process and the evaluation sheet for the evaluation criteria, which also includes technical foundations in quantitative analysis and biological sciences. After the oral presentation, the overseeing GEC member will fill out the combined (written/oral) evaluation to summarize the committee's views. You are welcome to write your own evaluation in advance of the meeting, but are not required to do so.

If you have any questions about the process, please do not hesitate to contact us. Thank you for your time and effort.

Sincerely,

*Dr. David Issadore, Co-Chair, Graduate Examinations Committee*

*Dr. Brian Chow, Co-Chair, Graduate Examinations Committee*

*Dr. Ravi Radhakrishnan, Chair, Bioengineering Graduate Group*