PhD Preliminary Exam Requirements

The Ph.D. preliminary examination is an oral exam administered by the student's graduate advisory committee after having passed STAT 720 and STAT 730. The Graduate School requires that this examination be administered at least two terms before the final dissertation defense.

The student’s graduate advisory committee consists of the advisor(s) and at least three additional faculty members, including at least two faculty members from the Department of Statistics and at least one outside committee member.

The student must provide two documents to the preliminary examination committee at least one week before the exam:

- A dissertation outline (up to two pages) that includes a statement of current progress;
- A research statement that includes a description of background, motivation of the problem, and summary of preliminary research results, or a research article.

The PhD Preliminary Exam consists of a public presentation with period of questions followed by a session involving the graduate advisory committee only. The advisor(s) should confirm the details of the exam with the committee before the exam itself.