

## Department of Wood Science & Engineering

# Faculty Policy on Wood Science Qualifying Exam

April 2009 (rev Mar 2010)

*(Effective for new students entering Summer Term 2009 and later)*

### Policy

All Wood Science graduate students (M.S., M.F., and Ph.D.) are required to pass a qualifying exam prior to scheduling their final exam. The purpose of the exam is to evaluate a candidate's understanding of basic wood sciences and their ability to identify common wood products.

To meet the graduation requirement, students can take the exam a maximum of three times. The WSE Graduate Affairs Committee will establish minimum passing scores.

Entering graduate students holding a BS or MS in wood science and technology or similar degree may take a qualifying exam to waive the required core courses, WSE 521 and 522 with the concurrence of their Graduate Committee. The student and major professor should carefully consider this option in light of the benefits of reviewing material, meeting other students, and getting into the culture of graduate work that result from core coursework. The major Professor must petition the WSE Graduate Affairs Committee for permission to take the exam for the purpose of granting a waiver. Approval will not be routinely granted. The student may take the exam only once for purposes of a waiver, and will count as one of the three attempts to pass the exam to meet the departmental requirement. The required score for the waiver will be higher than that needed to pass the exam to meet the graduation requirement.

### Process

The exam will include multiple choice, true or false questions, and other types as appropriate. Students will have prior access to a large database of example test questions as well as a sample exam, but questions will not necessarily be identical to those in the database.

The exam will typically cover the following competencies and in the following proportions:

- 23%: a) Anatomy and biology of wood formation; wood identification
- 20%: b) Physical properties
- 15%: c) Mechanical properties
- 15%: d) Chemical characteristics and properties
- 5%: e) Wood degradation and deterioration
- 15%: f) Composite materials and identification of common wood products
- 7%: g) Wood use and marketing

The test will be offered one time near the beginning of the fall, winter, and spring quarters. The Qualifying Exam Committee will maintain the question database as well as administer and grade the exam. The Graduate Affairs Committee will set standards for passing the exam and deal with any appeals.