Schedule for the Ph.D. Preliminary Examination

This to help clarify the policy on the timing between a Ph.D. student’s preliminary examination and final examination/defense. Per Section E.4.4 of the *Graduate and Professional Bulletin*, “A preliminary examination shall be administered at least two terms before the final examination to determine whether the student is qualified to continue toward the doctorate.” That is, a student must have two semesters between the preliminary examination and the final examination/defense.

In order for the timing to be consistent from year to year, we will align with the university academic calendar’s dates of the first day of classes for each semester. The schedule is determined by using the first day of the term and the day before the first day of the next term.

An example of this year’s preliminary examination calendar schedule is shown below:

- **Spring 2014:** Between January 21, 2014 and May 18, 2014
- **Summer 2014:** Between May 19, 2014 and August 24, 2014
- **Fall 2014:** Between August 25, 2014 and January 19, 2015

Potential scenarios:

- **If a PhD student completes his/her preliminary examination during the Spring 2014 semester,** his/her final examination cannot be administered prior to August 25, 2014. Spring 2014 and Summer 2014 count as the two terms.

- **If a PhD student completes his/her preliminary examination during the Summer 2014 semester,** his/her final examination cannot be administered prior to January 20, 2015. Summer and Fall 2014 count as the two terms.