

The candidacy process for HHSC candidates is as follows:

1. student submits qualifying paper to the committee (literature review)
2. committee provides approval that the qualifying paper will be accepted as step one for the qualifying exam
3. committee creates a list of questions based on health sciences in general and/or specific information on the dissertation topic (typically this has been five to seven questions vetted and/or edited by the committee)
4. student drafts answers - typically 5 to 10 pages per question
5. the answers are provided to the committee
6. oral defense is scheduled and the committee can examine on both the qualifying paper, as well as the answers provided to the qualifying questions (this has tended to be more like a meeting – less like a formal defense)
7. Student goes away and finishes/edits proposal, including the methods
8. Student completes oral defense on full proposal and if passed, gains “Candidate” status and a “pass” grade for 820

Please consult Chair of HHSC for more details and clarification