



Optical Science and Engineering Program

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Dear OSE Students,

The purpose of this email is to give you guidance on the OSE Qualification Exams in the COVID-19 environment. The OSE Committee met and has made the following COVID-19 provisions:

COVID-19 Exam Rule Provision*:

-There will be an August 2020 OSE Qualification Exam. The exams will take place on Thursday, 8/13/20 and Friday, 8/14/20. There will be 2 exams each day—one in the morning and one in the afternoon with an hour lunch break. The specific test schedule will be announced later on this summer. Students will be socially distanced for the exams in a few large classrooms/seminar rooms as opposed to one. The two year or four semester exam completion will end in August of 2021.

OR

-If a student does not feel comfortable taking the exams in August of 2020 under the conditions described above, then the student can postpone the exam until the August 2021 examination. The postponement of the August 2020 exam will not count as an exam attempt. Instead, students that delay this year's exam until 2021 will be afforded an extra year on their two year or 4 semester exam clock. Thus, the new two-year deadline to complete passage of all 4 exams for students that entered in the Fall of 2019 would be August of 2022.

Notification:

Please send me an email letting me know if you are going to take your exams in August of 2020 or if you will be postponing your exams until August of 2021. The deadline to give me this information is July 15, 2020.) If you have any questions, then please do not hesitate to send me an email at dorisw@chtm.unm.edu.

Below are the general rules for the qualification exam normal times, past exams and grading out policies for the qualification exam. We will be posting the new COVID-19 provisions on our website by this weekend.

General Rules:

All students seeking a Ph.D. are required to attempt the Written Qualifying Examinations after their first complete academic year; they are required to have passed all four examinations before beginning their third academic year. Each exam may be attempted twice at most** (see footnote below). Part-time students are not subject to the timetables above. The lowest passing score is 60%.

Studying for the Exams:

The best way to study for the exams is to study past exams. Below are links to the past exams for OSE.

OSE Past Exams:

<http://optics.unm.edu/current-students/exams.html>

Past ECE Semiconductor and Imaging Exams- Please contact Yvonne' Nelson of ECE department at nelsony@unm.edu

Grading out of the qualifying exam: The exam is waived for students who earn nothing less than a grade of an "A-" and an average GPA of 4.0 or greater on anyone of the four sets of five OSE-required core courses:

OSE Qualification Exams:**(a) Common Exams:**

(i) General Optics exam (Advanced Optics I (PHYC 463 or ECE 463), Experimental Techniques in Optics (PHYC 477L or PHYC 476L) and general knowledge of optics concepts) and (ii) the Electromagnetics exam (PHYC 511 or ECE 561). These two exams are common to all OSE concentrations.

(b) Concentration-specific Exams:

Optical Science: (i) Lasers Physics I, (PHYC 464 or ECE 464) (ii) Advanced Optics (PHYC 463 or ECE 463 and PHYC 554 or ECE 554)

Photonics: (i) Optoelectronic Semiconductor Materials and Device (ECE 570) (ii) Advanced Optics (PHYC 463 or ECE 463 and PHYC 554 or ECE 554)

Imaging Science: (i) Probability Theory and Stochastic Processes (ii) Advanced Optics (PHYC 463 or ECE 463 and PHYC 554 or ECE 554)

Quantum Optics: (i) Quantum Mechanics (PHYC 521) (ii) Laser Physics I (PHYC 464 or ECE 464)

Exit-examination requirement for MS Plan 2a: The Ph.D. qualifying examination will satisfy the exit- examination requirement for students enrolled in MS Plan 2a or the MS en-route degree.

*The 2020 OSE Qualification Exam COVID-19 provision will only be in effect if the New Mexico Governor and the UNM Leadership have approved instruction and meeting on the UNM campus. All social distancing requirements issued by the New Mexico Governor's office and the UNM leadership such as wearing a mask, handwashing, gloves, etc. will be followed during the OSE Qualification Exams.

** PLEASE NOTE THAT THE ELECTROMAGNETICS, GENERAL OPTICS, ADVANCED OPTICS, AND LASER EXAMS ARE OFFERED ONLY ONCE PER YEAR.