MEMO on changes in the Qualifying Exams, May 2, 2018

Graduate faculty in a vote on May 2 approved a change to the Qualifying Exam system. The scope and the timeline of the exam are reduced with respect to the current system.

1. Beginning in Fall 2018, the following PhD qualifying exams will be required.
   a. Three-hour real analysis exam based on MTH 511, whose syllabus will be standardized and include the topics on the RA exam. Scope:
      ii. The following topics are considered as background/examples to be used in class or on RA Qual (that students must review or develop on their own): $\mathbb{R}^n$ topology, functions on $\mathbb{R}^n$, derivatives (Frechet) on $\mathbb{R}^n$, inverse/implicit function theorem, Riemann integration, countable and uncountable sets.
   b. Three-hour linear algebra exam based on MTH 543. Scope: unchanged from the previous system.

2. Exams will be offered twice annually, with Fall and Spring offerings, around the beginning of the term.

3. Students will have three chances to pass each exam, with one free attempt before the start of students' first term at OSU.

4. A student must have passed both exams by the end of the spring term of student’s second year of study.

5. It is anticipated that GTA support will not be granted beyond up to 2 years in program for students who did not pass the Quals by the end of their second year in the program.

6. Clarification of the rules for students who entered the program prior to Fall 2018.
   a. Students who entered our program prior to F18 can choose to remain under the previous Qualifying Exam system (See Mathematics Department Graduate Handbook 2017-18, 5.2.B, p8, and Syllabus posted on Department website); no action is required from them.
   b. Students who entered our program prior to F18 can choose that the new Qualifying exam rules apply to them, with the provisions (c) and (d) below as concerns the timeline. They should notify the Graduate Committee in writing before May 21 by signing the form that has been placed in their mailbox.
   c. Students who entered the program in F16 have to complete the Qualifying Exam by the end of their seventh term in the program, i.e. by taking it in F18.
   d. Students who entered the program in F17 will have a total of three chances to take the exam including F18, S18, and F19. In the case they do not pass before F19, they have to petition for GTA support for F19.

(Reported on behalf of Graduate Committee and Graduate faculty in Mathematics, May 4, 2018).