

Networking Qualifying Review

The Networking Qualifying Review (NQR) follows the guidelines for the qualifying review in the graduate student handbook. Please refer to the handbook for guidelines regarding timing, and the need to enrol in ECE834. In particular, we would like to abide to the timing guidelines, requesting that the student should have the NQR *no later than their third semester of enrollment*, although exceptions can be made in special circumstances.

Additional clarifications and procedures for the NQR are outlined below.

The goal of the NQR is to assess the student's readiness for completing a Ph.D. degree from several perspective: intellectual abilities, domain area knowledge, motivation, time constraints, attitude, etc. To this end, the NQR will consist of a written review and an oral review.

Usually, the written review follows the same format as a good quality conference or journal paper with an abstract, introduction highlighting the context, motivation and contributions of the work, and a comprehensive, yet concise related work section. The main sections describing the work should be well organized and clear. The same criteria as for conference or journal reviews will apply in judging the written part of the review. Note that the student does not need to have a published (or even submitted) journal or conference publication - just the research material for one.

The oral review should be scheduled well in advance considering the availability of the committee members. The written document should be available to the committee members at least one week before the oral review. During the oral review, the student will present the work in the written part of the review. The committee may (and usually will) ask side-questions to assess the student's breadth of knowledge and his/her ability to place the work in a larger context. The target length for the oral presentation should be 30-40 minutes if no questions are asked (the actual time for the presentation can be considerably longer due to questions).

Both the written and the oral presentation should also include directions for future research, allowing for committee input at this early stage in the student's Ph.D. work. The future work section is, thus, very important and should receive a significant attention both in the written and the oral part of the review.

If the student fails the first qualifying review, one additional chance will be offered during the next semester.