I. QUALIFYING EXAM (COMP 897)
   a. What is the purpose of this exam?
      To demonstrate that the student has experience performing supervised research and is ready to
      conduct independent research. The Qualifying Exam is typically taken at the start of the summer
      after the Claremont year.
   b. What is the format of this exam?
      The examination shall consist of a research project supervised by a Faculty Mentor typically
      during the first three years of the students PhD. The student will be required to prepare a written
      account of his/her research work (the “Qualifying Exam Report”) performed, and the results of
      that research, and to give an oral presentation in front of the members of the Doctoral Committee. The written report will be provided to the committee and CSRC Director a minimum
      of two weeks before the oral presentation.
   c. Who should be present at the presentation?
      The oral presentation is presented to the JDP Committee consisting of five (5) faculty members:
      the Committee Chair, two SDSU/CSRC faculty members, and two CGU faculty members.
   d. What other requirements are there for this exam?
      The student must have his/her research project and results written up in a paper and ready for
      submission at the time of the Qualifying Exam. If a peer-reviewed published or submitted paper
      is used as part of this report it must be supplemented with a complete description of the work that
      was performed by the student (rather than co-authors or advisors). It is the student’s
      responsibility to confirm with the CSRC’s Admissions Coordinator (Parisa Plant) that the Report
      of the Qualifying Examination for the Degree of Doctoral of Philosophy (JDP3) has been
      completed and submitted to the SDSU Graduate and Research Affairs Office and to the
      Claremont Graduate University. The **JDP 3 form must be filed at least six (6) months prior to
      the Final Oral Defense.**

II. DISSERTATION PROPOSAL (COMP 897)
   a. What is the Dissertation Proposal?
      The Dissertation Proposal should take the form of a scientific grant proposal to a major funding
      agency such as the National Science Foundation or National Institutes of Health. The Proposal
      must describe the research project on which the student’s Doctoral Dissertation will be based.
      The student will make a presentation based on the Dissertation, highlighting their preliminary
      results and the work that they will complete. The Dissertation Proposal should be completed in
      sufficient time to allow the research to be completed, and will describe the research that will be
      performed. The Dissertation Proposal is typically taken the semester following the qualifying
      exam.
   b. Who should attend the presentation?
      All members of the JDP Committee should be present; other faculty members, staff and students
      of the Computational Science Research Center, and the public, are invited to attend.
   c. What other requirements are there for this Proposal?
      A copy of the dissertation proposal must be received by each member of the JDP Committee and
      the CSRC Program Director at least two weeks before the scheduled presentation. If the proposal
      is accepted by the Committee and the Director, the student will be recommended for
      Advancement to Candidacy for the Doctoral Degree. The appropriate form entitled “Report of
      the Thesis Proposal and Advancement to Candidacy for the Degree of the Doctor of Philosophy”
      (JDP 4) must be completed and submitted to the SDSU Graduate and Research Affairs Office
      and to the Claremont Graduate University. The **JDP 4 form must be filed three weeks before
      the exam together with an Abstract of the Dissertation.**
III. DISSERTATION DEFENSE (COMP 899)

a. Upon completion of the research, the student will prepare the Dissertation in accordance with CGU thesis requirements. A final draft of the Dissertation will be given to each member of the Doctoral Committee and the CSRC Program Director at least three weeks before the final oral examination. The appropriate form “Report of the Final Examination and Filing of the Dissertation for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy” (JDP 5) must be completed at the time of the defense.

NOTE: It is the responsibility of the student to understand and to follow these guidelines.