

# RPE Form

PhD students must pass a Research Proficiency Exam (RPE). The RPE is meant to judge the student's ability to conduct research, and is expected to lead the student into PhD research.

The RPE must be taken by the end of the fifth semester. If the RPE is graded as "fail", the students will have one more chance to pass the RPE in the following semester. During the second attempt, the RPE committee may choose to give the student a different problem to work on.

Students must have their Program of Study filed with the Graduate School before requesting to schedule the first presentation.

## Committee

The student will start this process by choosing an area in consultation with the Major Professor.

For the RPE exam, the student must also fill out the RPE form and form an RPE committee consisting of three faculty members from the CS department. Members of the PhD supervisory committee (as listed in the Program of Study form) belonging to the CS department must be included in the RPE committee. However, the Chair of the RPE committee must be a committee member who is not the Major Professor.

<b>Major Professor</b>	<b>Signature</b>	<b>Date</b>
Chair of RPE/Committee Member	Signature	Date
Committee member	Signature	Date

## Presentations

The RPE will be one-semester long, and during this semester, the student make three public presentations and produce a written report. The gap between presentations must be at least four weeks and the last presentation must be before finals week.

The first presentation should include a literature survey of the area, an open problem, and a proposed approach. At the end of the first presentation, the supervisory committee will approve the plan or suggest an alternative problem. The second presentation should present the progress made towards addressing this problem. The third presentation must be accompanied by a written report containing a literature survey, a description of the problem addressed, the technical approach used to solve the problem and the results. At the end of the first and second presentations, the student will be provided feedback on his/her progress and expectations for the next presentation. After the final presentation, the student's work will be judged as "pass" or "fail" by the RPE committee. Positive votes from a majority of the RPE committee will constitute a "pass". The chair of the RPE committee will record the committee decision on the RPE ballot.

Presentation 1 (Date)	Presentation 2 (Date)	Presentation 3 (Date)
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