Preliminary exam guidelines - rev 11.8.2017

Students will be required to pass a written preliminary examination. The examination will be offered at least once every year, usually in April. The preliminary examination will be developed by the student’s advisor in consultation with the student’s examination committee. The examination committee will consist of three Civil Engineering faculty members. The graduate program director must approve the content of each exam prior to administration. Students will be encouraged to take the preliminary examination the first time it is offered after they begin academic residency. Each student can take the written preliminary examination two times before being dismissed from the Ph.D. program.

The format of the preliminary exam was discussed and it was agreed that students may satisfy the preliminary exam requirement by either (1) submission of a manuscript as first author, or (2) submission of a proceedings paper as first author, upon review of faculty, or (3) a written exam on core coursework in which specific questions may be integrated within coursework and compiled into a “portfolio” to satisfy the requirement. For (1) and (2), the faculty advisor should explain the student’s contribution if not first author.