Student Name: **Major Professor(s):**

Tentative date of comprehensive oral exam:

In order to become a doctoral candidate, all USF CMS doctoral students are required to successfully complete their comprehensive qualifying exam. The **objective of the comprehensive qualifying exam** is to ensure that all doctoral students are experts in their field of research with a salient understanding of the basic underlying scientific principles and peer-reviewed literature related to their specific field of research and marine science as a whole. The comprehensive qualifying exam is composed of a written exam and an oral exam. The written exam consists of 2-5 days of written exams by all dissertation committee members (typically one day per committee member) that is administered by the major professor(s). Upon successful completion of the written exam, the oral exam will take place within 1 – 2 weeks and will be conducted by all committee members.

It is recommended that students must meet with their committee members to identify the content and format of their written exam at least two months prior to the written exam. While the identified exam topics will serve as a content guide for the student's comprehensive exam, committee members may explore the bounds of the student's knowledge with topics that are not listed. Attach any additional pages as needed to accommodate a complete description of the content required for each exam. Students and committee members are encouraged to keep a copy for their records.

Major Professor(s):

Exam format (e.g. open/closed book; time limit; citations):

Content Guide for Exam:

Committee Member:

Exam format (e.g. open/closed book; time limit; citations):

Content Guide for Exam:

Committee Member:

Exam format (e.g. open/closed book; time limit; citations):

Content Guide for Exam:

Committee Member:

Exam format (e.g. open/closed book; time limit; citations):

Content Guide for Exam:

Committee Member:

Exam format (e.g. open/closed book; time limit; citations):

Content Guide for Exam: