

Foreign Language Exam Form
Dept. of Mathematics, Univ. of Nebraska—Lincoln

The Department of Mathematics has a language requirement for the Ph.D. that must be completed before applying for Candidacy. Applying for Candidacy is strongly encouraged after completing 90 credit hours and must be done at least seven months before graduation. The department's *General Information On Graduate Programs* lists three ways to satisfy this requirement, one of which is an exam.

For the exam, you have two hours to translate about two to four pages of text (not counting formulas) from a mathematical paper in the general area of your research. To take the exam, you should, in consultation with your advisor, decide on a language (one of French, German, or Russian) and on the Math Subject Classification (MSC) that best fits your research area¹. Then complete this form and take it to the appropriate examiner, or send an email with the same information, and schedule the exam.

French: Allan Donsig, Avery 307, adonsig1@unl.edu

German: Lynn Erbe, Avery 234, lerbe2@math.unl.edu

Russian: Steve Cohn, Avery 226, scohn@math.unl.edu

You should contact the examiner at least a week before you want to take the exam and at least two weeks before any relevant deadlines. You can, if you wish, consult the examiner about the format of the exam and their expectations before starting to study. Many people practice by translating a few papers or part of a textbook. Your advisor may be able to recommend material in the appropriate language that is also relevant to your research program.

Here are a few general guidelines. You may use one or two published dictionaries. Write your translation (clearly) on separate sheets, not on the foreign text, and return your translation and the foreign text to the examiner. Exams are graded on the accuracy of the translation and the quality of the written English.

You will receive a letter stating whether or not you passed, with copies to your advisor and the graduate chair of the department. Keep the letter for your records. If you do not pass, you should make a serious effort to improve your command of the language before retaking the exam.

Name: _____

Advisor: _____

2000 Math Subject Classification (MSC): _____

Date & Time of Exam: _____

¹You may specify two digits and a letter. While we try to select material within that specific area, we only promise to be within the two-digit area. The 2000 MSC is available at <http://www.ams.org/mathweb/msc2000/>.