

Preliminary Written Examination (PWE)

INFORMATION

Graduate students admitted to the CBE PhD program are required to pass the **Preliminary Written Examination (PWE)** to demonstrate their proficiency in at least **Three (3) of the 5 Core Areas** selected as the following:

- **Transport Phenomena** is mandatory for all PhD students
- Students must choose **Thermodynamics** or **Reaction Engineering** or **both**. If students choose only one, then:
- Students must choose **Biomolecular Engineering** or **Engineering Mathematics**

The PWE will be offered at the **End of the Winter Quarter** of each academic year and graded by a faculty committee. Students must take the PWE in their first year. If students fail the PWE in the first attempt, they can retake it for the second time during the following Spring Quarter.

Students that fail both PWE attempts **will not be allowed to continue** in the CBE Ph.D. program.

