NCSU Math Prelim Presentation

When do you need to do your prelim?

- Passing qualifying exams
- Find research advisor
- An advisory committee
  - 3 addition graduate faculty members (at least one outside rep.)
- As soon as a thesis proposal has been made
- Recommended by the end of fourth year*
- At least four months before final defense
- Submit the request to the Mathematics Department graduate programs office at least three weeks in advance

What is a “Preliminary Oral Exam”?

- The Preliminary Oral Exam is a **thesis proposal**
  - “verify that the candidate has chosen a suitable topic for thesis research”
  - “evaluate the candidate’s ability to complete the proposed work”
  - “offer constructive advice”
- Presentation of the research proposal of 40-50 minutes
- Syllabus of 2-4 pages explaining research proposal
  - Problem statement
  - Known results
  - Possible approaches and methods
  - Partial progress
  - Submitted to committee and Graduate Services Coordinator two weeks in advance

Then what happens?

- “A unanimous vote of approval of the advisory committee is required for passing the preliminary examination”
  - “Approval may be conditional, however, and require students to meet specific requirements prescribed by their advisory committee”
- “A doctoral student is **admitted to candidacy** by the Graduate School upon successfully passing the preliminary examinations”
- “A student who fails the preliminary examination is terminated from graduate work at NC State unless the graduate advisory committee unanimously requests a re-examination”
  - One single re-examination will be allowed

Bibliography

All information presented came directly from section 2.1.4 *Preliminary oral exam* in the Guide for Graduate Students in Mathematics.