Computer Engineering Department

PH.D. DEGREE IN COMPUTER ENGINEERING

Written Comprehensive Exam: Policies and Regulations

1. The Ph.D. written comprehensive exam shall be offered twice a year; once in the Fall and another in the Spring semesters.

2. The exam will be held on the Monday of the 3rd week of the respective semester.

3. The exam will cover the following 3 areas:
   a. **Area 1**: Computer Architecture and High Performance Computing,
   b. **Area 2**: Computer Networks and Security, and
   c. **Area 3**: Digital System Design & Automation.

4. The exam duration will be 4:30 hours (average of 1:30 hour per area).

5. The exam will be graded out of a total of 300 (100 per area). The exam will have the following passing criteria:
   a. A PASS grade is granted to students who earn a minimum score of 200 marks and pass all 3 areas. A score of 65% or higher is required to pass an area.
   b. A student failing two or more areas is considered as FAIL. Each student is allowed 2 attempts to pass the comprehensive exam by the 4th semester for FT students or by the 5th semester for PT students.
   c. Students who secure a total score of 200 or higher but fail one area will be granted a CONDITIONAL PASS, where they must pass the exam in this particular area in the subsequent exam offering.