

Comprehensive Examination Plan and Procedure

Comprehensive exams in the Department of Communication are planned and scheduled by the student's advisory committee under the direction of the student's advisor. With various assessment options at its disposal, the committee works with the student to form an appropriate exam plan (sample below). The planning process begins when the committee convenes to determine:

The scholarly areas the student's exams will cover

Students will typically be tested on three to five different areas. These will typically involve some combination of broad scholarly areas (e.g., media theory, rhetorical theory) with custom areas tailored to the student's research specialty.

The format and distribution of ten (10) required written exam hours

The committee decides which faculty assume responsibility for particular exam areas, as well as for the format and allocation of exam hours that will go with each area.

Standard Test

Student sits for a proctored test for up to two (2) exam hours

Short Essay

Over two (2) days, student responds to a faculty member's question with an essay of predetermined length; equivalent of up to two (2) exam hours

Long Essay

Over eight (8) weeks, student responds to faculty member's question with an essay of predetermined length; equivalent of up to three (3) exam hours

Exams can contain a mix of these formats spread out over the exam period.

The dates and deadlines associated with the written and oral examination

Once the committee determines the format for each exam area and the distribution of hours among faculty, it approves a schedule and process for the delivery of the written exam and a date for the oral examination, which should be no sooner than ten (10) days after the completion of the written exams. Exams should be scheduled to begin no sooner than three (3) months after the committee convenes.

Follow up to committee meeting

After the committee has convened to plan the exams, the student meets with each committee member individually to form a reading list and to discuss the broad parameters of the faculty member's question. Once the student has met with each faculty member to approve his/her respective reading list, the student sends the advisor a summary document that includes each list.

Sample Exam Plan				
Area	Faculty	Hours	Format	Date
Controversy and the History of Rhetoric	de Velasco	3	Long Essay (30-40 pgs)	Question sent 8/24/2015; answer due 10/19/2015.
Rhetorical Theory	Sarkela	2	Standard Test	2pm to 4pm on 10/21/2015
Sociology of Religion	Petersen	2	Short Essay (4-6 pages)	Question sent 10/26/2015; Answer due 10/28/2015.
American Public Address	Dorsey	2	Short Essay (4-6 pages)	Question sent on 11/2/2015; Answer due on 11/4/2015.
History and Theory of Religious Rhetoric Study	de Velasco	1	Standard Test	2pm to 3pm on 11/9/2015
ORAL EXAMINATION @3pm on 11/23				