New Program Requirements for the Ph.D. in Curriculum and Instruction

In effect for students who began their studies in the fall semester of 2012 or after.

Milestones in the Ph.D. program have been revised to provide students more timely feedback on their progress, as well as to be sure they are well-prepared for the challenges of the dissertation process. The new milestones include 1) A Gateway Review after completing the first 12 credits of doctoral study; 2) a course-based inquiry tool requirement; and 3) a doctoral comprehensive exam structured around a pilot study to be carried out by each student, presented in journal article format and defended orally.

Doctoral Comprehensive Exam

The student can begin the pilot study at any time upon approval of the advisor after completion of the Gateway.

Purpose: From University website: “[to] ascertain general knowledge of a subject, acquaintance with scholarly research methods and skills, [and ability to] organize and present materials.”

Components of the Exam

Introductory Statement

This statement includes a description of the student’s trajectory of study in the doctoral program that reflects growing knowledge of chosen fields and understanding of the major ideas, issues, research and questions that characterize the field.

Part I: Completed study

This paper must be a completed pilot study carried out by the student that demonstrates knowledge of research design and reflects experience with data collection and analysis. This paper can be based on a paper that was previously submitted for a course like ETAP 781 or ETAP 778, or it can be a pilot study conducted as an independent study under the direction of the student’s advisor. This paper will be in a research article format.

This paper must be an executed study carried out independently by the student that
  • demonstrates knowledge of research design
  • reflects experience with data collection and analysis
  • shows readiness to carry out a dissertation study in the students’ chosen area of inquiry.

Part II: A public presentation to the examining committee

The student will present the study to an examining committee in a public forum. The committee will question the student about the study; other faculty and students will be welcome to attend.

Procedures
After consultation with his or her advisor, the student notifies the department secretary that he/she is ready to submit the exam papers.

Examinig committee: The committee chair and member are assigned by the department; the advisor is *ex officio*.

The examining committee will have one month to review the exam papers and schedule the public presentation. The committee will evaluate the student after the public presentation.

Evaluation criteria: The exam taken as a whole should demonstrate:
1. knowledge of areas of inquiry
2. knowledge of research methodology
3. competence in carrying out research
4. competence in presenting research in oral and written forms

Possible Outcomes:

Pass, demonstrating competence in all 4 areas.

Revise/Resubmit
- If the student is in need of improvement in 1, 2, or 3 areas (see above), the student may be asked to revise and resubmit with the same committee.
- This committee will have discretion in specifying what the student needs to do in revising the exam. This would include minor revisions to any one component of the exam as well as complete revisions of parts of the exam.

Fail/Retake
- If the student is in need of improvement in all 4 areas, the student will be required to retake the exam with a new committee.
- If a revised and resubmitted exam fails to demonstrate competence in all 4 areas, the student will be required to retake the exam with a new committee.

A student who fails on the first submission of the exam will have only one opportunity to retake the exam within 12 months from the date of the completion of the initial exam process.