

## ***Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination Requirements***

1. ***The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to evaluate a student's knowledge and skills in the substantive field of sociology and equity studies in education.***
2. ***Comprehensive examinations are to be evaluated by a committee of at least 2 faculty members, one of whom must be a member of the Department of Sociology & Equity Studies in Education. The committee is specific to each student and is composed of any faculty member willing to supervise the comprehensive and a second faculty member who sits as a member of the committee.***
3. ***Students are encouraged to take, as part of their normal load in their last term of course work, one half course focused on the substantive area on which they will be examined.***
4. ***The comprehensive examination may take the form of:***
  - a: ***a major paper (thirty to forty pages) exploring one of the following:***
    - a key theoretical or methodological question to be taken up in the student's proposed thesis area;***
    - an extensive critical evaluation of the literature existing on the student's thesis area;***
    - an area of sociology and equity studies, e.g. critical race theory; workplace studies, cultural studies.***
  - OR**
  - b: ***a substantive course outline (thirty to forty pages) for a topic of interest to the student within the area of sociology and equity studies in education containing detailed rationales for the inclusion of each reading***  
**OR**
  - c: ***an examination consisting of three short essays on a specific area of sociology in education/equity studies. Such examinations will be set by the department and questions will address methodological issues in the field of sociology in education/equity studies. The examination will be held twice yearly (fall and winter) in the department at specified times.***
5. ***The option selected above, and the date of the comprehensive will be decided by the candidate and her/his committee.***
6. ***The candidate shall have 3 weeks in which to complete options a and b. Option c consists of a three hour departmental examination.***
7. ***The comprehensive option selected, excluding option c, shall be based upon a definition of the field and a bibliography to be agreed on by the candidate and her/his comprehensive examination supervisor in consultation with the other member(s) of the committee.***
8. ***Completion of the comprehensive examination shall be on a pass/fail basis. A pass shall be constituted by the recommendation of the committee.***
9. ***The comprehensive examination should be taken no later than the end of the third year of doctoral study. It is the student's responsibility to initiate the process with her/his advisor or supervisor.***
10. ***Records of the results of the comprehensive will be filed by the committee chairperson with the department and the Registrar within two weeks.***
11. ***If a candidate fails the comprehensive, he/she shall be allowed one additional attempt to complete this requirement. This must be done within one year of the time of the original examination.***
12. ***Appeals of this process are handled according to the departmental procedure currently in place (see the departmental handbook: [www.oise.utoronto.ca/depts/sese](http://www.oise.utoronto.ca/depts/sese))***