

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

1. The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to evaluate a student's knowledge and skills in an area of social justice education and to confirm her/his readiness to write a thesis in that area.
2. Comprehensive examinations are to be evaluated by a committee of at least two (2) faculty members, one of whom must be a member of the SJE Department. The committee is specific to each student, and is composed of any faculty member willing to supervise the comprehensive examination 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 one of the following forms, subject to the goals of the student and the approval of the supervisor:
  - a. a major paper (thirty to forty pages) exploring one of the following:
    - i. a key theoretical or methodological question to be taken up in the student's proposed thesis area
    - ii. an extensive critical evaluation of the literature existing on the student's thesis area
    - iii. an area of social justice education, e.g., critical race theory, decolonization, or cultural studies
  - OR
  - b. a substantive course outline (thirty to forty pages) for a topic of interest to the student within the area of social justice education containing detailed rationales for the inclusion of each reading
  - OR
  - c. a solid draft of a scholarly article that substantially addresses Section 4.a. above (items i, ii, and/or iii), and subject to the goals of the student and the approval of the supervisor.
5. The option selected above and the date of the comprehensive examination will be decided by the student and her/his supervisor and other member(s) of the committee.
6. The student shall have three (3) weeks to complete any option (a, b, or c) of the comprehensive examination.
7. The selected comprehensive examination option shall be based on a definition of the field and a bibliography to be agreed on by the student and her/his 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 or fail shall be constituted by the recommendation of the examination committee.
9. If a student fails the comprehensive examination, she or he will be allowed one additional attempt to complete this requirement. The student will have the opportunity to re-write and re-submit within three (3) months of the committee decision. A second fail of the examination will constitute student failure from the doctoral program.
10. The comprehensive examination should be taken no later than the end of the third year of doctoral study (to be adjusted accordingly for students in the Ph.D. flexible-time degree program). It is the student's responsibility to initiate the process for the comprehensive examination with her/his advisor or supervisor.
11. Records of the results of the comprehensive examination will be filed by the committee chairperson with the department and the OISE Registrar within two (2) weeks.

MEMORANDUM

TO: Office of the Registrar & Student Services, OISE

FROM: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chair, Department of Social Justice Education

RE:  Comprehensive Requirement for Ed.D. Program

Comprehensive Requirement for Ph.D. Program

Student: \_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

Student Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Completion: \_\_\_\_\_ CR to be loaded in: \_\_\_\_\_  
(Fall/Winter/Summer) (Year)

As the supervisor, I confirm the doctoral degree requirement indicated above has been completed satisfactorily.

Supervisor: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Please Print)

SJE Chair: \_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date