

PH.D. COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION GUIDELINES EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS, POLICY AND PRACTICE (EFPP)

DESCRIPTION

A written comprehensive exam, followed by an oral defense, must be completed toward the end of the student's coursework. The examination will cover information from all required coursework in the student's degree program. Students transferring coursework from other institutions to this program will be responsible for the same knowledge as those whose work has been taken entirely at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Students must be registered for coursework (which includes enrollment in reading or independent study courses) or dissertation hours during the semester(s) in which they take the comprehensive exam.

PROCESS

Students are to consult with their advisor in order to plan for the comprehensive examination, which is normally taken toward the end of students' coursework. Students collaborate with their advisor to assign three core members of their Comprehensive Examination Committee, and their advisor will provide a study guide of some form (e.g., reading list, study questions).

FORMAT

The EFPP doctoral comprehensive is a written examination followed by an oral defense.* The examination consists of questions for the student to think about and write about during a one-week period. Students are expected to work alone (i.e., students may not get feedback from others). Each question has a limit of eight pages, not including the list of works cited. Soon after completing the written portion of the exam, students will have a 90-minute oral defense of their written examination with their Comprehensive Exam Committee.

DEADLINES

PhD Comprehensive Exams are administered twice during the year:
Fall – first week in November
Spring – first week in April

* Note that EFPP doctoral students admitted prior to 2006 are eligible to take the old version of the EFPP Comprehensive Examination. Please consult with your advisor about this.