

Ph.D. Program Comprehensive Examination: Policy 2.0

All Ph.D. degree students in the Department of Kinesiology and Nutrition Sciences (KNS) will complete a written comprehensive examination. This examination should occur at the point following the completion of most coursework, in accordance with the degree plan. Not more than 3 credits of outstanding course work should exist when the student writes the comprehensive examination.

The comprehensive examination is to occur across three successive days (72 hours). The specific format of the examination (number of questions; depth, etc.) is at the discretion of the advisory committee. The questions must, however, address elements of content knowledge, research methodology, and related discipline electives reflective of the student's program of study. It is suggested that the examination consist of at least six questions with no more than 11 questions. Note that a multi-level question (*i.e.* 2a, 2b, 2c) will be viewed as a single question. The advisory committee will serve as the evaluating body to determine the outcome of the examination.

Outcomes include:

- Pass: student allowed to schedule oral examination;
- Conditional Pass: student advised of status and that the oral examination will provide an *opportunity* to correct errors, clarify nebulous areas and/or expand on superficial responses;
- Fail: student must repeat the written examination.

The oral examination, to be scheduled within two weeks of providing examination feedback to the student, will provide an opportunity for the student to articulate what they have communicated in prose form, and possibly to address weaknesses or shortcomings in particular areas, as perceived by the advisory committee. The outcomes of the oral examination include:

- Pass: student advanced to candidacy and allowed to enroll in dissertation credits;
- Fail: student must repeat the entire Comprehensive Examination.

If a student: 1) fails the written comprehensive examination, or 2) fails the oral examination, there will be one additional opportunity for the student to correct deficiencies and re-write the comprehensive examination. A re-write of the comprehensive examination cannot occur during the semester of the original examination. A student may not enroll in dissertation credits until advanced to candidacy.

Failure to pass the doctoral comprehensive examination on a second attempt will result in the student being separated from the program.