Overview
Comprehensive Exams for PhD students in Educational Research offer students an opportunity to reflect on their coursework and demonstrate comprehensive knowledge of core areas of educational research and their own unique area of specialization. As a result, comprehensive exams emphasize the required programmatic core courses (18 hours of coursework), area of specialization (12 hours of coursework), and foundations of education (12 hours of coursework).

Prerequisites
Examinations are offered in the fall and spring semesters. To be eligible to take the comprehensive major examination for the Doctor of Philosophy degree, a student must have completed all required coursework.

Process
In concert with his/her major advisor, students will determine a comprehensive examination committee composed of faculty with expertise in our required areas of study (core educational research courses, specialization, foundations of education). Committee members will be given two weeks to develop a total of three (3) examination questions. Questions will be forwarded to the major advisor who will, in turn, disseminate the exam to the student. Students will then have two weeks to complete comprehensive examinations (if given as a take-home exam) or four hours for each question (12 total hours if given as a sit-down exam). The major advisor will collect student responses and distribute them to corresponding faculty members from the comprehensive exam committee. Committee members will have two weeks to grade exam questions. Once faculty have reviewed exam responses, an oral examination will be scheduled.

Successful Completion of Comprehensive Exams
Students will have successfully competed comprehensive exams when they:

1. Receive a passing mark on all questions of the written comprehensive examination. The written examination may be either take-home or sit-down.
2. Pass an oral examination in which the candidate will be provided with an opportunity to elaborate on the above written examination and consider implications for future projects and/or areas of scholarship.

Final successful completion of comprehensive examinations will be communicated to the program coordinator and department chair.

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1 Revised September, 2012