

Research Paper Comprehensive Field Exams - Guidelines and Procedures

Comprehensive Field Exams with paper structures (“Paper Comps”):

- Contemporary Social and Political Theory
- Intra-/Inter-disciplinary Studies

Prerequisites:

- Paper abstract
- Bibliography/reading list
- Completion timeline

Students interested in taking a paper comp must meet with the field clerk at least one semester prior to signing up to take the exam. The paper comps take careful planning to ensure relevant and adequate course work is taken, in particular any methods requirements, and the committee is convened in time to approve the research paper. Timing the research paper exam to balance workload with coursework and teaching/research responsibilities is also an important consideration.

Both paper comps require a paper abstract and bibliography to be approved by the student-selected exam committee. This is expected to be done prior to the student signing up for the exam. Students are also expected to provide a timeline for completion (first draft, revision, final submission, oral defense) to the exam committee for approval to take the exam.

Once the abstract and bibliography have been approved by the committee, the student may sign up to take the comprehensive exam. Additionally, the student must inform the Graduate Program Director and Graduate Studies Committee in writing of their intention to take the exam in the next semester. The paper must be completed and defended before the first day of the subsequent semester (i.e. the day before the first day of classes). Failure to defend the exam by this deadline will result in an automatic failure of the comprehensive examination.