

**Industrial/Organizational Psychology  
Graduate Program  
Comprehensive Examination Policy  
Revised: May 2018**

**General Information Regarding the Comprehensive Examination**

Students who have completed their Master's Thesis and most of the course work required for the doctoral degree are expected to take their comprehensive examination. Consult your faculty advisor regarding the best time to take the examination. The examination consists of the two components detailed below that can be completed in **any order**. One component is that of a take home essay exam. For the second component the student can choose between writing a research proposal or writing up a research project (typically the thesis) for publication and submission. The research proposal/article component can be completed anytime after completion of the thesis. The essay portion must be completed during a faculty determined timeline in the early part of the fall semester. It is expected that students will take their examination in their fourth year. Both parts of the comprehensive exams must be completed in a specified time period (details below). Passing the comprehensive examination is one of the requirements for establishing Candidacy for the Doctorate in Psychology.

**Content and Evaluation Standards for Each Component of the Comprehensive Examination.**

I. Research Proposal Component

This portion of the examination will assess students' competency in researching and writing a research proposal. Students choose the topic for their research proposal and it often reflects some aspect of a research area that students might want to pursue in their dissertation research. However, though this comprehensive examination and the dissertation proposal may have some overlap, the two should be different. In addition, students must submit to the I/O psychology area director, a two-to three-page prospectus briefly outlining what their research proposal will cover. The director will distribute the prospectus to three faculty for feedback and approval. This review may take up to two weeks. We expect students to address the feedback provide when writing the full paper. Following faculty approval, students may begin their research and writing.

The proposal should be 25-35 double-spaced pages in length, exclusive of references, and typed according to the guidelines of the Publication Manual of the APA (6<sup>th</sup> edition). The first page should include a title and name, with text starting on the second page. An abstract is not required.

## II. Article Submission

The article submission component is offered as an alternative to the research proposal option. Students are required to use a research project that occurred while they were at UNO, typically

according to the guidelines of the Publication Manual of the APA (6<sup>th</sup> edition). The first page should include a title or short version of the question followed immediately by the text; an abstract is not required. Do not write your name on any answer but include it instead on a separate page entitled "Answers to Essay Questions". Page numbers for each question should start at 1. Students are required to turn in 3 copies of the answers (each answer should start on a

**Criteria**

Knowledge: Breadth, appropriateness, and understanding of the literature.