

Doctoral Comprehensive Exams:

1. **Purpose:** Prepare students for working as a professional historian, ensuring mastery in their chosen field of study and dissertation research field.

Prepare students for teaching as a professional historian, ensuring mastery in both primary and secondary teaching fields.

Enable students to craft a professional identity by articulating their primary fields (geographical, theoretical, and/or chronological) of research and teaching.

2. **Reading Lists:** By Spring of second doctoral year, students will have received approval for 3 examiners within their chosen areas of study (reflecting primary area, dissertation field, and outside field) and have created/begun working through reading lists approved by each of their examiners.

3. **Comprehensive Exams:**

There are two portions of the comprehensive exams. Written and Oral.

Written Exams:

1. By early fall (September) of 3rd year, students will have agreed upon exam dates with their examiners and scheduled an oral exam (reserve a room through Rene' and schedule the date with all three examiners and notify the GPD). Students should notify GPD which exams are designated for each day.

2. Exams will be offered across three days, typically with one day or weekend between (such as T/R/following T), 9-1. Students should meet with examiners 2-3 weeks before exams to discuss format and potential questions. Examiners will send their questions one week in advance to GPD. We will prepare packets for each exam that students will pick up from Rene' morning of exam and return those packets to Rene'. Students should email their exam to GPD and Rene'. Exams will take place in the Graduate Student Lounge. Students should use only the computers within the Grad Lounge. Students are required to only use materials allowed by their examiners. Students will receive an email from GPD shortly before the exams with list of when each exam will take place and a reminder of details.

**Please be aware that your exam responses will be circulated among your entire committee (not just to each individual examiner). However, written exam grades will be determined solely by your examiner.*

Oral Exams:

Oral exams must be scheduled within a week of completed written exams. Oral exams may constitute questions related to the written portion and may also cover general field knowledge. The goal is to ensure both broad knowledge about research/teaching fields as well as mastery of the historical conversation in these areas.

Students will be notified of exam results (both written and oral) at the completion of their Oral exams.