

The PhD Comps are a comprehensive examination, taken after all course requirements have been completed, and prior to writing the dissertation.

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is two-fold:

1. To provide an adequate background and intelligible context for the writing of an interdisciplinary dissertation;
2. To ensure sufficient breadth of scholarly knowledge to prepare the candidate for a career in university research and teaching.

The doctoral student, in consultation with the examining committee, defines two fields on which the student wishes to be examined. One field will be designated the major field, the other the minor field.

Determination of the fields should be guided by the following considerations:

1. Fields must not be excessively narrow
2. One field must not subsume another
3. Both fields may not be primarily in the same discipline
4. At least one field must not be limited primarily to the twentieth or twenty-first century.

Students should demonstrate a broad familiarity with the major texts, issues and critics in any given field.

Examples of acceptable fields include - but are not limited to:

- Psychoanalysis/ Psychoanalytic Theory
- Structuralist and Poststructuralist Theory
- Postcolonial Theory
- Queer Theory
- Feminist Theory
- Critical Race Theory
- Kant and Enlightenment
- Globalization and the Nation State
- Im/migration, multiculturalism and cosmopolitanism
- Social Theories of Religion and Modernity
- 20th Century Historiography
- Theorizing Social Determinants of Health
- Philosophical Anthropology
- Theories of the body
- Aesthetic Theory and Public Spaces
- Hegel and Marx
- Theories of the State
- Themes in Critical Theory
- Theories of Art and Revolution
- Theories of Narratology

Prior to the comps candidates will present a bibliography of the texts relevant to the chosen fields (these must be submitted in proper format ie. full references in an approved academic style). The

bibliography should include a minimum of (and not much more than) twenty-five (25) significant entries in the major field and a minimum of (and not much more than) fifteen (15) entries for the minor field. The examination will focus attention on the material listed in the bibliography. The bibliography must be approved by the examining committee prior to setting the date for the examination. Candidates are advised to consult with their examining committee when preparing the bibliography.

Arrangements with respect to time, place, date and composition of the examining committee must be made through the Program office for the Director's approval at least one month prior to the examination. The comprehensive examination committee consists of three members of the Program who are familiar with a student's work and the Director, or his/her representative. The student will consult with their committee members to determine a suitable date and time for the exam. The student will then provide to the Director (in writing or by email), the names of the three committee members, the proposed time and date of the exam, and the bibliography. Once the bibliography and committee is approved by the Director and a Director's representative has been selected, the Program Assistant will contact the faculty members nominated for the Director's Rep. and arrange the comprehensive exam. Official notification of the exam will be sent (by email) to all participants from the Program Office.