

Doctor of Philosophy in Education Counselling Psychology Concentration

Comprehensive Examination

All students completing a Doctor of Philosophy in Education should refer to the overarching comprehensive examination guidelines within the Doctor of Philosophy in Education Policies and Procedures.

In addition to the guidelines pertaining to the Doctor of Philosophy in Education, the comprehensive examination for students within the Counselling Psychology concentration will assess beyond the focus of the student's research topic and will assess the student's competence in the specific field of research, ethics, and the field of intervention or assessment.

The comprehensive examination for the Counselling Psychology concentration has the following components:

Examination Component:	Description:
Written Component	<p>Purpose:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tests the student's knowledge in research methodologies, which can be related to the student's chosen methodology for the doctoral thesis • Tests the student's knowledge within the field of counselling psychology as it relates to current controversies/debates within the field of counselling Ethics. Student needs to demonstrate competencies beyond what would be expected from master's level competencies • Tests the student's knowledge within the field of counselling psychology as it relates to interventions or assessments, beyond what would be expected from master's level competencies <p>Evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The student will receive two written questions from each of the above competency areas, and will select one question from each area to address. Thus, there will be a total of six (6) questions presented to the student, and the student will select three (3) questions to answer (one from each competency area). • Questions will be drafted by the Comprehensive Examination Committee. Two (2) questions from each competency area are to be presented to the student. • Upon receipt of the questions, the student has twenty-eight (28) calendar days to submit a written response to each selected question. This work is done independently with no guidance from the Comprehensive Examination Committee or the Chair. If the student has questions, the student can consult the Chair via email communications only. • Each written response is to be submitted in Microsoft Word in a professional format that adheres fully with APA standards. • Each written response must actively integrate current research (within the last 10 years) and show ample critical reflection. The questions will not address rote/recall and require reflections at a higher level than what would be expected of a master's level graduate. • Each written response should be at least twenty (20) pages and not more than forty (40) pages, excluding title page, abstract and references.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • General criteria will be identified and used to evaluate the quality of each piece of written work. • The Comprehensive Examination Committee will have three (3) weeks to review the three (3) written responses before an oral examination is held. • Students are strongly encouraged to publish their written responses upon completion of this process.
Oral Component	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral examination consisting of questioning and discussion designed to test the student's depth of knowledge in the above areas, and in the general subject area. • Developed by the Comprehensive Examination Committee, and administered by the Chair of that committee. • Normally, two (2) hours long.

A 'Pass' grade will be awarded when a majority of committee members vote as such on both the written and oral components of the comprehensive examination.