

# **PhD in Education Studies Comprehensive Examination Guide**

***For Students in the Fields of  
Applied Linguistics or Curriculum Studies***

*Version Date: July 2018*

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS OFFICE

All students who started in Fall 2015 or later in the Field of Applied Linguistics or Curriculum Studies are required to satisfactorily complete one Comprehensive Exam. The goal of the exam is for students to demonstrate a depth of information concerning their specific program of research and a breadth of knowledge of their focus within their field (e.g., mathematics curriculum; ESL/EFL).

### **PhD Comprehensive Exam:**

One written question that asks students to discuss their program of research and how it relates to their focus within the field.

Please address the following in 8,000-10,000 words, exclusive of references.

- 1) Applied Linguistics Students - While cognizant that Applied Linguistics is a highly interdisciplinary field, you will demonstrate knowledge of key aspects of the development of your area of specialization in Applied Linguistics, including its evolution, seminal works and contemporary knowledge and issues in the area (e.g., educational linguistics related to second/foreign language teaching; discourse or genre approaches to EAP, etc.), describe your proposed program of research and how it relates to said area.
- 2) Curriculum Studies Students - Demonstrating knowledge of the history and contemporary state of your focus within curriculum studies (e.g., mathematics in curriculum studies), describe your proposed program of research and how it relates to said focus. Considerations discussed may include: what is the state of knowledge in your focus relative to your research? Where is your research positioned within the focus? How does it mobilize (or not) historical traditions and/or contemporary practices in the area? How will it advance knowledge in the area?

*You may discuss your paper with anyone, including professors, but you may not submit drafts of your papers to anyone. You are strongly encouraged to discuss problems with your Supervisor and possibly members of your committee, as it is envisioned that this paper will make a contribution to your research proposal.*

### **Starting Your Comprehensive Exam:**

As soon as you have completed your coursework, you will start your Comprehensive Exam process and must be completed in one term, two at the most. Comprehensive Exams are a Milestone and will not show up as a course in your Student Centre. Once you have passed your Comprehensive Exam, it will appear at the end of your transcript under the Milestones area.

### **Registering in Your Comprehensive Exam:**

There is no need for students to register in a Comprehensive Exam as it is considered a Milestone. After students have completed their course work, it is anticipated that they will immediately start to prepare their Comprehensive Exam

Comprehensive Exams must be completed in one term. Under exceptional circumstances, a student may seek permission to extend their Comprehensive Exam into an additional term. Students may appeal for an extension to the Associate Dean, Graduate Programs, under extenuating or compassionate grounds.

### **Request for Administration of Comprehensive Exam:**

Students must submit the following to the Graduate Programs Office at least four weeks prior to the end of the term of registration:

- 1 copy of your Comprehensive Exam (this can come in Electronic Format)
- Request for Administration of Comprehensive Examination form (located on the "Forms & Guidelines" page of the Graduate Programs' website).

### **Reviewers:**

The student's supervisor and one committee member or alternate that has knowledge of the field shall complete a review of the student's work. In situations where there is a co-supervision arrangement, each supervisor may review the student's work. Each reader will independently determine whether the paper is satisfactory or not and notify the Graduate Programs Office within two weeks after the submission date. The Graduate Programs Office will then notify the Supervisor who will share the results with the student.

## GRADUATE PROGRAMS OFFICE

### **Grading:**

Grading will be pass or fail.

The qualifying paper is read by two people: your Supervisor plus a second reader. Each reader will independently determine whether your paper is satisfactory or not and notify the Graduate Programs Office within two weeks after the submission date. The Graduate Programs Office will then notify your Supervisor who will share the results with you. In addition, the readers will be available to meet with you to provide feedback.

If a student's paper is not judged to be of sufficient quality to be marked "Pass" by the reader(s), the student will be permitted to resubmit a revised version of the paper within two weeks of its return. The revised paper will be re-read by the same reader.

If after reading the revised paper the reader does not assign a "Pass," the student will be asked to withdraw from the program. If the reader assigns a "Pass," the student may proceed in the program to complete degree requirements.

*If you have any further questions, please contact the Graduate Programs Office.*