

Doctoral Qualifying Examination Procedures
Department of Counseling and Educational Psychology

A. Educational Psychology (Including School Psychology)

1) Major General Examination. This is a required written sit-down examination covering human development, learning and cognition, and inquiry, lasting four hours and 40 minutes (120 minutes for inquiry and 80 minutes each for development and learning), and administered on two days each semester (in February and October). A study guide is available in each area from the program area head, one month prior to the examination date. Questions are written and scored by the respective program area faculties. Each question is scored by two independent raters, with no student names on the papers.

2) Major Specialization/Concentration Examination. This can take one of two forms: A take-home option, which may be a set of questions or a more focused term paper (see separate departmental handout), or a four hour sit-down examination, administered on one day of the qualifying examination week, each semester. Each student's advisory committee chair is responsible for developing the specialization examination. Students typically play a large role in determining the focus of the exam. Take-home exam questions are given immediately after the major general examination and responses are due 30 days later.

3) Oral Examination. After the written examinations (general and specialization) have been scored and students have been given their scores and specific feedback, an oral examination is scheduled. At this examination students are asked to elaborate on unclear or incomplete written answers and to correct errors in the written examination responses.

B. Counseling Psychology

1) Ethics Examination. This is a required four hour sit-down examination, administered on one day of qualifying examination week, each semester.

2) Take-home Examination. This is a required examination covering counseling practice, research, and professional identity.

3) Oral Examination. After the written examinations have been scored and students have been given their scores and specific feedback, an oral examination is scheduled. At this examination students are asked

to elaborate on unclear or incomplete written answers and to correct errors in the written examination responses.

C. Minor Examination

All Education doctoral students who are minoring in another Education program area are required to take a qualifying examination in their minor. This may be a four-hour sit-down examination, developed by their minor representative and administered during the qualifying examination week, or it may be a take-home examination. Students with interdepartmental minors must take a minor qualifying examination if their minor representative is an Education faculty member or if the majority of their minor course work is in Education. Students minoring outside of the School of Education may or may not be required to take a minor qualifying examination, depending on the policy of the minor department. Students majoring outside of the School of Education, with a minor in an Education program, may or may not be required to take a minor examination, depending on their performance in the minor courses and on the policy of the minor committee member.

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