

## **Ed.D. Qualifying Examination**

### Educational Leadership Program

The following describes a new Ed.D. qualifying examination that will replace the present one on April 1, 1997. This document is divided into two parts: a description of the examination and procedures for its implementation.

#### **The Ed.D. Qualifying Examination: Summary**

The Ed.D. qualifying examination marks the culmination of a process, outlined below, which assures that the examination reflects both the student's special research interests and the major disciplines (or themes) within educational leadership (i.e., organizational theory, school law, leadership, planning and change, economics of education). It represents the full collaboration of the student and his/her program advisory committee, and directs the graduate experience productively toward the dissertation and a professional career beyond it.

The written portion is conducted as two one-week take-home examinations. In the first week, all students will prepare a maximum 20-page response to questions addressing two of the major fields of educational leadership, with the two questions drawn randomly by each student from a pool containing one question from each of the five disciplines (or themes). Since they will not know beforehand which two fields will be examined, students should prepare across all five disciplines (or themes). In the second week, students will respond in writing to questions proposed by their program advisory committee. These questions should be formulated from the student's research interests.

The exam will be evaluated by faculty members from the two major fields and the program advisory committee within three weeks. At that time, the program advisory committee will schedule an oral exam.

#### **Procedures**

After consultation with their initial faculty advisor, the student selects a three-person program advisory committee, with two members from the educational leadership faculty, one of whom is designated as chair. The chair will take the lead in coordinating the exam itself. The members of the program advisory committee should all be in residence for the semester the student plans to take the exam. If a member is unavailable, the student should replace this individual on their program advisory committee.

Normally, the qualifying examination is taken in the semester in which the student completes all course work for the Ed.D. All such work offered in partial fulfillment of degree requirements must either have been completed within seven consecutive calendar years of the passing of the qualifying examination or be revalidated according to procedures outlined in the School of Education Graduate Bulletin.

Approximately four months before planning to take the exam, the student and committee chair should meet to prepare for the examination. At this meeting, the student and program advisory committee chair determine the research interests to be examined in the second week of the exam (see above). In consultation with the chair, the student should prepare and distribute to committee members a reading list that reflects a familiarity with significant critical work pertaining to this problem. Drawing from the research interests and the reading list, the student's program advisory committee will formulate questions for the second week of the exam (see above). This section of the exam is designed to serve as a bridge between graduate course work and preparation of a dissertation proposal. There are no pre-approved research areas or reading lists.

At least two months before the exam, the student is encouraged to discuss with faculty members the

general line of questioning the first week of the exam will follow. In general, students should expect to answer two to four questions prepared by educational leadership faculty, reflecting key educational issues in organizational theory, school law, leadership, planning and change, and the economics of education.

A successful qualifying exam will demonstrate a student's mastery of required coursework and their specific research interest. Qualifying exams may be attempted twice; a student who fails in a second attempt ordinarily will not be advanced to Ed.D. candidacy. In the case of procedural or due process irregularities only, an appeal may be directed to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

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