

GRADUATE PROGRAM IN COMMUNICATION  
THE GRADUATE SCHOOL  
UNIVERSITY OF MARYLAND

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION PLAN  
DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY DEGREE IN COMMUNICATION**

The comprehensive examination plan must be approved by the Advisory Committee no later than the final semester of coursework required by the Plan of Study. After the Committee's approval, submit the Plan along with this form to the the Director of Graduate Studies.

Provide the information requested in all of the following sections of this form.

Full Name (Last, First, Middle)

Date

Street Address

Student Identification Number

City, State, ZIP

E-mail Address

Home Telephone Number

Office Telephone Number

**COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION PLAN**

Semester of Comprehensive Examination (three written examinations and one oral examination):

**MAJOR AREA EXAMINATION CHARACTERISTICS**

Major Area:

Examiner:

Sub-Area (if relevant):

Condition of Examination: Take-Home Exam

1 Day

2 Days

3 Days

Start

Date/Time

End

Date/Time

The examination offers an option of 1–3 days (i.e., 24 to 72 hours with an expectation of 8 to 24 hours of work) to complete the examination after exam questions are provided at the designated date/time above. Advisor will arrange to email the questions. Max length: 20 pages (12-point font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins on all sides), excluding tables, figures, and references.

\* The major area and methods examinations must be completed within a two-week period.

**METHODS EXAMINATION CHARACTERISTICS**

General Methods:

Examiner:

Sub-Area (if relevant):

Condition of Examination: Take-Home Exam

1 Day

2 Days

3 Days

Start

Date/Time

End

Date/Time

The examination offers an option of 1–3 days (i.e., 24 to 72 hours with an expectation of 8 to 24 hours of work) to complete the examination after exam questions are provided at the designated date/time above. Advisor will arrange to email the questions. Max length: 20 pages (12-point font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins on all sides), excluding tables, figures, and references.

\* The major area and methods examinations must be completed within a two-week period.

**DISSERTATION RESEARCH LITERATURE EXAMINATION**

Specify Content:

Examiner:

Sub-Area (if relevant):

Condition of Examination: Take-Home Exam

Start  
Date/Time

End  
Date/Time

The examination takes 1–3 months and may or may not have specific questions or prompts, at the discretion of the advisory committee. Max length: 30 pages (12-point font, double-spaced, 1-inch margins on all sides), excluding tables, figures, and references. The advisor’s feedback is allowed only once during the examination.

All written exams must be completed by Friday of the 6th week in the fall semester and the 10th week in the spring semester.

**ORAL EXAMINATION**

Condition of the Oral Examination:

In-Person

Remotely (e.g., Video conference, telephone)

Prior to the oral examination, students and advisors may meet. Advisors should answer any questions and prepare students by explaining the format of the oral defense.

The oral examination should be completed by Friday of the 8th week in the fall semester and the 12th week in the spring semester.

By signing below, the Advisory Committee Chair affirms that a majority of members of the Advisory Committee have approved the attached comprehensive examination plan.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Advisory Committee Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Approved     Not Approved

\_\_\_\_\_  
Graduate Director

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

Return to Graduate Director, Department of Communication, 2130 Skinner  
Building, University of Maryland, College Park, MD 20742-7635