

## *Comprehensive Examination*

### **IMPORTANT!!!**

Fall semester comprehensive exams will be held on the first Friday in November , and in the Spring semester the comprehensive exams will be held on the first Friday in March. Students need to complete the "[Application for Graduate Comprehensive Examination](#)" and return it to Ms. Joy Jones one month prior to their exam date.

### **Purpose and design**

Comprehensive examinations are designed for students to synthesize the knowledge they have learned throughout the program. For this reason, examinations should be taken at or near the end of coursework, either in the fall or spring semester. Exams are not scheduled over the summer. The student's advisor must approve their application for the exam. The six-hour exam is proctored from 9:00 a.m. – 12 p.m. and from 1 p.m. - 4 p.m. Results of the comprehensive exams are mailed to students usually within 4 weeks after the exam.

### **Sample Subject Areas**

- Instructional methods for a particular age/proficiency group with particular needs (including elementary and secondary)
- Second Language Acquisition (SLA) theories
- Major trends and issues in language teaching/learning
- Reading strategy instruction
- Steps in the writing process
- Adapting an inadequate book or curriculum or course to meet students' needs
- Specific problems in grammar teaching and how to solve them
- Language assessment
- Language learning styles and strategies
- Differences between ESL and EFL
- Reflective teaching and action research
- Cross-cultural communication

## Grading

	Criterion A	Criterion B	Criterion C	Criterion D	Criterion E		
<p><i>QUESTION NUMBER AND TOPIC:</i></p> <p><i>Below write the number of the question and a 2-3 word summary of the topic</i></p>	<p><i>Completeness of Answer</i></p> <p>(All parts of the question are answered fully; examples or applications are given as required)</p> <p><b>RATE 0-5</b></p>	<p><i>Validity of Facts and Perspectives</i></p> <p>(Answer contains correct facts and valid arguments)</p> <p><b>RATE 0-5</b></p>	<p><i>Higher-Order Thinking Skills</i></p> <p>(Answer exhibits analysis, synthesis, and/or evaluation)</p> <p><b>RATE 0-5</b></p>	<p><i>Citations of Relevant Research or Laws</i></p> <p>(If the question requires citations of research or laws regarding the topic, the answer gives appropriate citations)</p> <p><b>RATE 0-5</b></p>	<p><i>Quality of Writing</i></p> <p>(Answer shows coherence and cohesion, as well as good control of spelling, punctuation, and grammar)</p> <p><b>RATE 0-5</b></p>	<p><b>TOTAL SCORE FOR EACH QUESTION:</b></p> <p><i>Add scores from all criteria used for the question</i></p>	<p><b>MEAN SCORE FOR EACH QUESTION:</b></p> <p><i>Divide the total score by the number of criteria used (either 4 or 5 criteria). Round to the nearest 10<sup>th</sup> of a point.</i></p>

### RECOMMENDATION BASED ON FINAL SCORE

*(CIRCLE THE ONE THAT APPLIES)*

4.5 – 5 = Pass with honors

3 – 4.4 = Pass

Below 3 = Fail