



PhD Program in Social Welfare Comprehensive Examination Series on First-Year Coursework

(Applicable to students entering program starting with the 2005-06 school year.)

Introduction

The purpose of the comprehensive year-one examination is to assess the student's ability to synthesize and integrate the first-year course materials. Questions are designed to elicit analysis of the first-year content and to apply that analysis to current social welfare issues.

Courses Covered

The Comprehensive Examination tests students on the course content of the following first year courses:

1. Introduction to Advanced Research Methods and Design (SocWL 580-581).
2. Research Issues and Priorities in Social Welfare (SocWL 598-599).
3. Policy Courses:
 - Analytical Perspectives on Social Welfare Policy (SocWL 552).
 - Seminar in Contemporary Social Welfare Policy (SocWL 553).
 - Global and International Social Welfare Policy (SocWL 554).

The instructors for these courses prepare the questions and grade the written sections of the examination.

Preparation

During spring quarter the 1-credit seminar will primarily focus on aiding the students with studying for the Year 1 Comprehensive Examination.

[Although the first-year advisors will serve as the primary resource for helping students develop the focus for their second year program of study and the process of selecting the Supervisory Committee, the spring seminar may also be a venue for discussing these components of the program.]

Timing and Structure

Written examination sections take place immediately following finals week of spring quarter; the Oral examination section is the following week.

The written examination comprises three four-hour sessions, one for each main area:

Methods, Theory, Policy. These sections will be graded (pass/fail) by the first-year instructors and selected Social Welfare faculty members..

The week after the written examinations each student will complete an individual one-hour oral examination. The purpose of this examination is to provide students with the opportunity to show their skill in integrating the course content across all areas of the first-year courses. Members of the PhD Steering Committee will conduct these examinations with consultation from the first-year instructors and selected doctoral faculty (one instructor and one doctoral faculty member per section).

Grading: Each of the three written and the oral sections are graded independently, i.e., taking the oral examination is not dependent upon a passing grade in the written sections.

Retakes: Students are allowed one retake for each section of the examination. Retakes must be completed before the beginning of the autumn quarter of year 2.

Students must pass these first-year examinations in order to continue with the program. Failure to pass all sections prior to the beginning of autumn quarter of the second year will result in a hold being placed on the student's registration.