The General exam consists of both a written and an oral exam in which the Supervisory Committee evaluates the preparedness of the student to advance to doctoral candidate status and to begin developing a dissertation proposal. The committee designs a written exam based on the advanced coursework in the area of study and critical review of the literature that the student has completed. The content, length, and duration of the written exam varies but it typically consists of 3-4 questions over 4-5 days. The oral exam is two hours in length and requires the formal scheduling process through the graduate school.

The General Examination Statement is visualized in the diagram below.

1) Theoretical & Methodological Framework should encompass:
   a. the Three Fields only, and how they are interconnected;
   b. the Three Fields, along with how they are connected to Urban Design & Planning as a discipline;
   c. the Three Fields, along with how they are connected to the proposed research

2) We are suggesting that there should be a low level detail (i.e. top-level section headings) with respect to requirements, and an increased level of detail (i.e. 2nd-level section headings) for suggested contents; these are indicated in the template as **bold for requirements** and *italics for suggested contents.*
GENERAL EXAMINATION STATEMENT – PROPOSED TEMPLATE

The General Examination Statement is to be submitted prior to taking the General Examination. It should provide a brief synthesis of the student’s fields of study, accompanied by a reading list. In the following template, each of the **Bold** sections are required to be included in the statement. However, the *italicized* sub-contents in each section should be taken only as suggested content.

A – Prospectus

A.1 – Overview of intended dissertation research  
A.2 – Potential contributions of the dissertation  
A.3 – Student’s envisioned career path / Research agenda

B – Theoretical and Methodological Framework

B.1 – A diagram  
B.2 – Textual explanation: Descriptions of elements, overlap (relationship), gaps

C – Fields of Study (2-3 fields)

This section is meant to provide a brief overview and explanation of each of the fields that synthesizes the current issues and debates in the field. While it may involve critical analysis, it is not a re-conceptualization of the fields.

**Note:** A “field of study”, as used here, is defined as a body of knowledge that would enable a person to teach an advance topics graduate course on it.

C.1 – Field titles  
C.2 – Sub-field titles

D – Core Reading Lists (75 to 150 items)

In preparing their reading lists, students should focus on the dominant conceptual approaches, empirical studies, and theoretical frameworks, and not on purely descriptive survey material.

D.1 – Theory  
D.2 – Methods  
D.3 – Empirical studies

E – Timeline

E.1 – Revised prospectus for Phase II  
E.2 – Selection of Supervisory Committee Members & Graduate School Representative  
E.3 – Submission of first draft of statement  
E.4 – Initial meeting with committee  
E.5 – Submission of final definition of fields  
E.6 – Submission of final core reading lists  
E.7 – Submission of final statement  
E.8 – General Examination, written  
E.9 – General Examination, oral