

Community and Cultural Concentration: Comprehensive Examinations Procedure

The comprehensive examination procedure in the Community and Cultural Concentration (CCC) consists of a written major examination in Community and Cultural Psychology, a paper on qualitative analysis, and a paper in the form of either a grant proposal or literature review for a journal in the selected Certificate field. Each of these three parts of the procedure may be repeated once at the discretion of the CCC faculty. As required by the Graduate Division, failure shall result in dismissal from the graduate program. The major exam and both papers must be completed without consultation on the content with anyone else. Comprehensive exams are taken after admission to the doctoral program and the completion of most courses, and before a dissertation committee is formed.

I. Major Exam

The major exam in Community and Cultural Psychology is administered twice during the academic year, once in each semester at a mutually agreed upon time. It covers material presented in the CCC graduate courses, the CCC reading list, and the preceding three years of the *American Journal of Community Psychology* and *The Community Psychologist*. Each student selects six questions from a list of ten, prepared by the CCC faculty, and has one week to complete an open-book, take-home, exam.

The exam is graded by the CCC faculty members on a five point scale (1-5) with an average grade of 3.0 required to pass. An exam with a grade below 3.0 is a failure. An exam with an average grade between 2.75 and 3.0 may be revised once, based on oral feedback from the CCC faculty, and resubmitted for grading, providing that at least 4 of the 6 questions received an average grade of at least 3.0. The revision must receive an average grade of at least 3.0 to pass. An exam with an average grade below 2.75 may be retaken once, with new questions, at the discretion of the CCC faculty.

Faculty individual scores are considered initial input into the group process that produces consensus on pass/fail decisions. If each faculty average score is at

least 3.0, the exam is a pass. If at least one faculty average score is below 3.0, the answers are discussed and adjustments made as appropriate, until a consensus is reached on the pass/fail decision. Whenever there is a possibility of a failing grade, the process is never simply a mechanical averaging of initial individual faculty scores. A pass requires at least a majority of passing votes by the CCC faculty who score the exam.

II. Qualitative Paper

The purpose of this paper is to show how qualitative analysis is used to address a research or consultation question in Community and Cultural Psychology. The process of qualitative analysis, including how traditional issues of reliability and validity are addressed, are discussed. The average paper is about 25 pages and is submitted to the CCC faculty anytime after admission to the Doctoral Program and before the formation of the dissertation committee. Approval of the topic question is not necessary. The paper is graded by the CCC faculty on a five point scale (1-5) with an average grade of 3.0 required to pass. A paper with a grade below 3.0 may be revised once, based on oral feedback from the CCC faculty, and resubmitted. The revision must receive an average grade of at least 3.0 to pass. The process for pass/fail decisions is the same as described for major exams.

III. Certificate Paper

The objective of this paper is to conceptually integrate Community and Cultural Psychology with the selected Certificate discipline on a topic important to both fields. The paper may be in the form of either a grant proposal or literature review for a journal.

The paper is submitted to the CCC faculty anytime after admission to the Doctoral Program and before the formation of the dissertation committee. The paper is graded by the CCC faculty on a five point scale (1-5) with an average grade of 3.0 required to pass. Any paper with a grade below 3.0 may be revised once, based on oral feedback from the CCC faculty, and resubmitted. The process for pass/fail decisions is the same as described for major exams.