

UBCO School of Health and Exercise Sciences: Notice of Doctoral Comprehensive Examinations

<i>Student Name:</i>	<i>Student #:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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In addition to approval of a dissertation proposal, successful completion of comprehensive examinations is required for a doctoral student to advance to candidacy. It is the policy of the College of Graduate Studies (CoGS) that candidacy must be achieved within 36 months of entering the program (barring a leave of absence); however, it is the stance of CoGS and the School that you should aim to complete these requirements within 24 months. Failure to achieve candidacy within 36 months means you must withdraw from the program unless granted an extension by the Dean of CoGS ([see section 8.7 of the CoGS Policy Manual](#)). In the event of an extension, you will be given a classification of “unsatisfactory progress” on the Annual Progress Report ([see section 8.1 of the CoGS Policy Manual](#)) and will be ineligible for any internal awards funded through CoGS (e.g., [University Graduate Fellowship](#) or [Graduate Dean’s Thesis Fellowship](#)) during your final year.

For the comprehensive examinations, the student will meet with their Supervisory Committee at least three months prior to the proposed date of the written examination in order to agree upon expectations, the members of the Comprehensive Examination Committee (CEC), as well as the examination format, structure, and content. Each examiner will provide a list of no more than 15 readings (research articles or book chapters); however, this list serves only as a starting point because the student is expected to read additional material to ensure that they are “scientifically conversational” in each assigned content area. The CEC will set and assess the examination in a manner compatible with the [policies of the College of Graduate Studies](#).

The following guidelines describe the standard format of the comprehensive examinations:

- The CEC is comprised of 3 examiners, one of whom must be external to the School. It is not necessary that they are external to UBC nor is it necessary to have them approved by CoGS. If a member of the Supervisory Committee is external to the School and serves as an examiner on the CEC, they would satisfy the requirement of an external examiner. In many cases, the CEC will be comprised of the external expert* and the two members of the Supervisory Committee who are not the direct supervisor(s). A supervisor may serve as an examiner but they will do so in lieu of a member of the Supervisory Committee who is internal to the School; i.e., the number of examiners will not exceed 3. **NB: the external examiner on the CEC cannot serve as the external examiner for the dissertation defence*
- The examinations involve a written and oral component, both of which are set and assessed by the CEC. The student must pass the written component in order to advance to the oral component.
- The written component is comprised of 3-6 questions (1-2 per examiner), which are grouped into 3 content areas relevant to the student's general area of study. This is an assessment of the student's mastery of a breadth of areas related to their program of study, including, but not limited to: theory, methods, controversies and recent advancements in the field.
- The written component is a formal closed-book examination of two 4-hour periods in a single day. The School’s Graduate Program Assistant will make arrangements with IT Services to obtain a computer that is incapable of connecting to the internet. The School’s Graduate Program Assistant will also make room bookings for both the written and oral examinations.
- The oral component will occur within 3-14 days of successful completion of the written component and not exceed 2 hours in duration. **The supervisor will arrange a neutral chair for the oral examination.** The neutral chair does not need to be external to the School.

If the comprehensive examinations will differ from the details above, please provide a description and rationale in the following textbox. Alternative formats must be approved by the School's Graduate Committee at least 8 weeks before the proposed date of the written examination.

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Examination Scheduling

	Proposed Dates
Written Examination	
Oral Examination	

Please check this box to acknowledge the oral examination will be scheduled at a time that does not conflict with a regularly scheduled School event (e.g., unit or committee meeting, invited speaker seminar, etc.).

Comprehensive Examination Committee

Role	Name	Institution	Signature	Date
External examiner				
Examiner				
Examiner				
Neutral Chair (oral examination only)				

Signatures

By providing my signature below, I, the graduate student, am acknowledging that I agree with the format and timing of the examinations as well as the composition of the examination committee.

<i>Graduate Student Signature:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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By providing our signatures below, we, the members of the Supervisory Committee, are acknowledging that we agree with the format and timing of the examinations as well as the composition of the examination committee.

Role	Name	Institution	Signature	Date
Supervisor				
Co-Supervisor (if applicable)				
Committee Member				
Committee Member				
Committee Member (if applicable)				

<i>Graduate Program Coordinator Signature:</i>	<i>Date:</i>
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Please email the completed and signed version of this form to the School's Graduate Program Assistant (fhsd.graduateprogram@ubc.ca) as soon as the examination committee and the examination format have been finalized and all parties have agreed to tentative dates. The form should be sent at least 4 weeks before the proposed date of the written examination.