Comprehensive Examination (Non-Thesis)

Each Non-Thesis student will, with the help of his/her advisor, create a Comprehensive Examination Committee. Along with the student’s advisor, two other faculty members will comprise the comprehensive examination committee as agreed upon by the student and the faculty advisor. At least one of these additional members must be a URI Kinesiology faculty member, and the third faculty member can be from within our outside the KIN department. The selection of the Committee members will be based on matching expertise to the student’s emphasis of study and the unique career objective of the student. Committee selection will also consider workload across the faculty, and therefore, the Committee needs approval from the Graduate Director. At the advisor’s discretion, one following formats must be chosen for the exam:

Option 1 (preferred): Written Examination and Oral Examination. A four-hour block of time will be reserved for the written Comprehensive Examination. The Comprehensive Examination will focus on the cumulative knowledge of Kinesiology and specific additional questions from standard graduate coursework which the committee agrees reflects the expertise expected of the student given his/her overall program of study. The nature of the questions will be global and open ended, with an emphasis on application and problem solving. The questions will be oriented to the student’s career objective and graduate emphasis of study.

Option 2: Take-Home Masters Major Paper and Oral Examination. The student will write a culminating paper during the student’s final semester that is developed on a topic selected by the student in conjunction with his/her graduate faculty advisor and comprehensive examination committee. This paper should include elements of various coursework topics from the student’s program of study (see application form) but must include information that demonstrates understanding and competence in research design specific to the student’s area of Kinesiology interest.

For both suggested Comprehensive Examinations options:

- The process for writing the culminating paper/taking comprehensive examination includes an pre-examination meeting with the Committee once the student has completed ≥ 23 credits of his/her approved program of study.
- The student will be graded on the paper/examination by each committee member.
- Oral Examination: After the paper/examination, Committee will have an opportunity (< 2 h) to ask the candidate questions on areas of weakness of the paper/examination that need to be explained/clarified by the student in order to pass the examination or on what to focus when preparing to repeat the examination if a candidate fails the examination(s).
- If a re-examination is recommended, the candidate must wait at least 10 weeks to retake the Comprehensive Examination should the committee determine that a second attempt is allowed.
- In extraordinary cases whereby the committee satisfied that the student has exceeded expectations for the written examination, the oral examination meeting may be waived.
  - However, it is expected that in most cases there will be an oral examination to at least discuss the results and for the candidate to address shortcomings or to elaborate on examination content.
- Similar criteria will be used to evaluate the Comprehensive Examination results as are used to evaluate Thesis defense examinations (e.g. Passed, Failed – Retake Allowed, Failed – No-Retake Allowed, etc.)