



HED COMPREHENSIVE EXAM POLICY

Educational Policy Studies & Practice

CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF HIGHER EDUCATION

MA

Goals: In the written examination, the student is expected to demonstrate a deep understanding of foundational and contemporary higher education literature, models and theories.

Format for Comprehensive Exam: The format for the comprehensive exam includes questions from HED 601 and two other courses, selected by the student and the advisor.

Timeline: The exam must be taken in the last semester of the MA coursework. Exams will take place the second Friday in April¹ and the second Friday in November. The student will have about an hour and twenty minutes to complete the question(s) from each course. Copies will be distributed the instructors (or substitute faculty member) of these courses and reviewed blindly. Students must successfully pass (not "low pass") at least two out of three areas to pass the Comprehensive Exam. Students who fail all three questions, two of the three questions, or one question and marginally passes one other question have failed the Comprehensive Exam. Students who fail their Comprehensive Exam may repeat their exam once if the committee determines that the result was a marginal pass/fail. Students who fail their Comprehensive Exam a second time are subject to dismissal.

¹ If the second Friday of April is the weekend of the Easter holiday, the exam will be moved to the third Friday of April.

¹ If the second Friday of November is during the ASHE conference, the exam will be moved to the first Friday of November.