

## Curriculum and Instruction Department The Preliminary Examination

**Purpose and Administration:** The intent of the Preliminary Examination is to determine whether the doctoral student has a sufficient understanding of Curriculum and Instruction (C&I) theory, foundations, and research methods that will enable him/her to be successful in completing the doctoral requirements. The questions for the Preliminary Examination will be integrative, comprehensive, and cover C&I theory, foundations, research methods, and content from the student's focus of study. Tenured and tenure-track faculty will be responsible for submitting questions to their respective committees. A copy of the exam questions and results will be filed with the Chair of the Department.

**Prerequisites:** The student must successfully complete the following requirements before sitting for the Doctoral Preliminary Examination:

- The College of Education and Human Services seminars - EDUC 510 and either EDUC 511 or EDUC 512 (grade of C or better for each and at least 3.0 grade point average overall)
- All three CI core courses: CI 582, CI 583 and CI 584 (grade of C or better for each and at least 3.0 grade point average overall)
- Establishment of residency (24 graduate credit hours at SIUC in a 4-year period after admission into the doctoral program)
- The research tools EAHE 587, EPSY/QUAN 505, and one other approved research course (grade of C or better for each and at least 3.0 grade point average overall)
- All or most\* of the remainder of the student's doctoral program of study, with the exception of the dissertation hours. Enrollment in remaining elective(s) during Exam semester is allowed. \*To be decided by the Dissertation Committee Chair
- At least 3.5 overall grade point average for all doctoral level courses appearing on the student's Program of Study.

### **Procedure:**

**Session 1** is an on-campus, proctored exam on Thursday and Friday of week five. Students are required to answer at least one question from each of the three areas: theory, foundations, and research methods. The student's **Program Area** is responsible for the content and the number of question options students receive in each area (e.g., a student may be asked to answer two of four possible foundations questions). Session 1 will include "theory" question(s) (Thursday 8 am -12 pm), "foundations" question(s) (Thursday 1-5 pm), and "research methods" question(s) (Friday 8 am -12 pm). Each question will address content related to both the C&I Core and the student's program area. Students may bring a reference sheet in APA 6<sup>th</sup> Edition format into the exam; the sheet may include short headings to categorize references, but no notes.

**Session 2** is a take-home exam. Students are required to answer question(s) related to their area of research. The student's **Doctoral Committee** is responsible for the content and the number of question options provided. On the Friday of week five, students will receive this exam upon completion of Session 1. The student's committee will determine the due date which will not exceed three weeks after receipt of the question(s). Students will electronically submit their responses (in MS<sup>®</sup> Word document or pdf format) by uploading it to their LiveText accounts no later than the stated deadline.

**Evaluation:** The evaluators of the Preliminary Examination will include the student’s doctoral committee and members of the Program Area, as appropriate. There must be three evaluators for each question. Students completing the exam, with the exception of summer, will be notified no later than 30 calendar days after examinations are completed about their pass/fail results. The evaluators will give Session 1 quantitative and qualitative feedback to the student’s Doctoral Committee Chair, and the student should make an appointment to meet with the Doctoral Committee Chair to hear specific feedback. Evaluators will score the preliminary exam question(s) for which they are responsible on a scale of 4 to 16 using the Department Preliminary Examination Rubric. The evaluators decide whether or not the student passes or fails each question and the overall exam. The Program Area Coordinator submits the Session 1 Decision Form, and the Doctoral Committee Chair submits the Session 2 Decision Form along with a Preliminary Examination Evaluator Feedback form completed for each question by each evaluator of the question.

Until the student has been notified about her/his advancement to candidacy, individual evaluators must maintain confidentiality on his/her judgment regarding students' responses. In cases of disagreement, the evaluators should meet and discuss students' responses and seek consensus. Where there is a lack of consensus among the evaluators, the department Academic Affairs Committee (AA) will mediate and/or make recommendations about additional evaluation.

Students may be allowed to rewrite the question(s) they have failed at the discretion of the Program Area (Session 1) or the Doctoral Committee (Session 2). A student may take the Preliminary Examination no more than 3 times.

**Preliminary Examination Process**

Week 5		Weeks 6 - 8	Weeks 10 - 13
<b>Thursday</b> <b>Session 1</b> (on-campus & proctored) <i>Theory</i> (8 a.m. – 12 p.m.)  <i>Foundations</i> (1 – 5 p.m.)	<b>Friday</b> <b>Session 1</b> (on-campus & proctored) <i>Research Methods</i> (8 a.m. – 12 p.m.)  <b>Session 2</b> (take-home) <i>Area of Research</i> Student receives question(s) at 12 p.m.	<b>Session 2</b> Response to take-home question(s) is due within 3 weeks of receiving the question(s).	Committee notifies student of exam results.

**Doctoral Milestones – Recommended Timeline**

<u>Milestone</u>	<u>To be achieved...</u>
Form Doctoral Committee Program of Study	within the first 15 semester hours of doctoral study
Preliminary Examination	within the first 20 semester hours of doctoral study
Apply for Candidacy	semester after completion of preliminary examination prerequisites
Prospectus Meeting	immediately after passing preliminary examination
	by the end of the semester following admission to candidacy

Visit <http://ehs.siu.edu/ci/> for more information and official forms