

FAQ'S ABOUT COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION

Last updated: January 20, 2022

1. What is the general overview of comprehensive examination?

They contain questions from both quantitative and qualitative specialties and are read by faculty.

2. How is the on campus examination structured?

It is a 2-day closed book exam where students choose 3 out of 6 questions from both quantitative questions and qualitative questions/program evaluation. They are theoretical in nature. Students must write their answers in the RMS lab on the computer. We will not allow students to use paper. If needed, the students must draw tables, graphs, and diagrams using Microsoft Word only.

3. When are the examinations offered?

Exams are offered twice per year once in the Fall Quarter and the once in the Spring Quarter

4. When is a student eligible to take the examination?

Students are eligible when they have completed all of the required coursework (detailed in your individual coursework plan). Students should try and finish their required coursework so that they are eligible to take the exam, after which they can continue working on their electives

5. What are the requirements for the take home examination?

Students have to decide on a feasible dissertation topic before they can go down the path of the take-home exam. They will also have to identify a faculty member who is willing to sponsor them for their take home exams. If these two requirements are not met, the take home option is not feasible for the student and they should take the on campus examination.

6. How should I prepare for the comprehensive examination?

For both types of exams, start with what you are most familiar with and then go and read relevant book chapters, and look at power point slides from your classes. Prepare summaries and look at the guidelines for the RMS comprehensive exams. Give yourself ample time for preparation, i.e., at least approximately 1-2 months.

7. What about grading and rewrites?

Grading criteria, including the criteria for the award of a final examination grade (i.e., honors, pass, conditional pass, fail) and rewrite information are provided in the grading rubrics section of the RMS portfolio site as well as in the take home examination section.