



MEMO

Dean of Graduate Studies

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TO Senate	TEL
FROM Wade Parkhouse, Dean, Graduate Studies	<i>W Parkhouse</i>
RE Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	[GS2012.12]
CC Paul Budra	
DATE 23 April 2012	

For information:
Acting under delegated authority at its meeting of 16 April 2012, SGSC approved the following curriculum revision:

Effective Date is September 2012

Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences	[GS2012.12]
<u>Department of Gerontology (GERO)</u>	
PhD Program:	
i) change to language re: comprehensive exams	

Senators wishing to consult a more detailed report of curriculum revisions may do so by going to Docushare: <https://docushare.sfu.ca/dsweb/View/Collection-12682>
If you are unable to access the information, please call [778-782-3168](tel:778-782-3168) or email shelley_gair@sfu.ca.

Gerontology PhD Calendar Changes

Summary of Changes

- Removal of requirement to defend PhD comprehensives orally, except when requested by supervisory committee
- All re-examinations will be defended orally
- Modification of 1st sentence to make it more succinct

From:

Comprehensive Examinations

After completion of all course work with a GPA of at least 3.25, students will write two comprehensive examinations, which are multidisciplinary and comprehensive in nature and that necessitate independent study beyond course requirements based on reading lists developed with their supervisory committee. These are to be defended orally.

One exam will cover the substantive literature in the dissertation field. The second will be determined by the supervisory committee based on the current and anticipated research needs of the student. It will typically cover one or a combination of the following: a secondary area of gerontological knowledge; design and methods; or theoretical knowledge.

A student who fails a comprehensive exam will have one chance for re-examination. Students failing either comprehensive exam more than once will not be allowed to continue in the program. When the exams are successfully completed, the student must successfully defend their dissertation proposal before being officially admitted to candidacy for the PhD degree.

To:

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A student who fails a comprehensive exam will have one chance for re-examination. Failure to pass a second time will result in immediate withdrawal from the program. On the first set of comprehensive examinations, the supervisory committee may require that the student orally defend their comprehensive examination if clarification or elaboration is required to determine a pass or fail based on the written material. All re-examinations will require that the student orally defend their comprehensive examination. When the exams are successfully completed, the student must successfully defend their dissertation proposal before being officially admitted to candidacy for the PhD degree.

Rationale

The requirement of all students to defend comprehensive exams orally was removed to allow the supervisory committee more flexibility in the evaluation process. Some students will be required to defend orally before a determination of pass or fail is made, but some may be passed or failed on the basis

of their written exam. The supervisory committee will request an oral defense of a comprehensive exam if clarification is required, or if the written exam is deemed to be border line. This process will be explained to students in an internal document.

The description of the comprehensive examinations in the first paragraph was shortened since that level of detail is provided to students in an internal document and is not necessary for the purposes of the calendar.

Gerontology Doctor of Philosophy Program

*Department of Gerontology | Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences
Simon Fraser University Calendar 2012 Spring*

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