

Psychology and Law Comprehensive Doctoral Activities Milestone

Transition Planning. All students entering the Program (Experimental Forensic / Psychology & Law) in Fall 2012 or earlier are eligible to either complete the former Comprehensive Doctoral Exam requirements, or to switch and complete the newly enacted requirements. The new requirements are in force for all students entering Fall 2013 and after.

New: Comprehensive Doctoral Activities Milestone

Rationale. The purpose of the Comprehensive Doctoral Activities are for students to engage successfully in a number of professional activities that are intimately associated with the creation, communication, and dissemination of scholarship in psychology and law, which are key scholarly competencies. Although not a requirement of the Graduate Center, all students will be required to complete the Comprehensive Doctoral Activities to complete the Psychology and Law Program.

Requirements. To successfully complete the comprehensive doctoral activities, students are required to complete all of the following activities:

1. Submit a first-authored manuscript to a peer-reviewed journal and complete any necessary follow-up “revise and resubmit” procedures. The process of publishing the manuscript should allow students to develop skills of responding to an editor and peer reviews (either directly via a revise and resubmit OR via a new submission to a different journal). The manuscript could be based on the student’s first-doc research project, an alternative project with the students’ faculty advisor, or a project with another faculty member (in Psychology and Law, or from outside). The peer-reviewed journal to which the article is submitted is subject to the approval of the student’s faculty advisor.
2. Present a poster or paper at a relevant regional, national or international conference. The student should be first author on the presentation.
3. Attend two regional, national and/or international conferences, with each conference being hosted by a different organization. (This can include the conference from #2 above.)

Evaluation. Students must obtain approval from their faculty advisor prior to engaging in each of the comprehensive tasks to ensure the activity meets the standards of the Program. In addition, successful completion of the Comprehensive Doctoral Activities Milestone will be subject to the approval of the student’s faculty advisor and the training area program head.

Timing. Students are required to complete all the Comprehensive Doctoral Activities prior to their dissertation oral defense. It is expected, however, that students will attempt to complete all activities by the end of their first three years in the program.

Requirements for the Second-Doctoral Examination

Transition planning. All students entering the Program (Experimental Forensic / Psychology & Law) Fall 2012 or earlier are eligible to either complete the former Second Doctoral Exam requirements, or to switch and complete the newly enacted requirements. The new requirements are in force for all students entering Fall 2013 and after.

New: Second Doctoral Exam Requirements

Rationale. The second doctoral examination is designed to ensure that all students will gain competencies to conduct a broad literature review of a given topic, conceptually integrate theories from diverse areas of Psychology and/or of Psychology & Law that are relevant to the topic chosen, and provide evidence of their potential to develop a rigorous program of research.

Requirements. The second doctoral exam will be comprised of a written product that takes the form of a review paper, similar to those found in *Psychological Bulletin* OR a ready-to-submit grant proposal (e.g., NSF or NIH). The two options for successful completion of the second doctoral examination are described below. Students must gain approval of their topic from their second doctoral committee chair (typically the faculty advisor) prior to beginning their Second Doctoral Exam.

***EITHER*:**

1. An approximately 25 page, excluding references, *Psychological Bulletin*-style review of research: (a) on a topic in a related area of psychology, such as social, developmental or cognitive; or (b) on a topic which bridges a related area of psychology (i.e., social, cognitive, etc.) with Psychology & Law. The paper should take the form of a systematic and integrative review that makes a theoretical argument and/or presents a new theoretical model. Students are encouraged to be familiar with the guidelines of this journal and use them as a framework for writing the review. The treatment of the related area of psychology should not be incidental but represent a significant contribution to the theorizing, review or analysis within the paper.

- OR -

2. A full-scale, ready-to-submit (as judged by the second doctoral examination committee) NSF or NIMH-style grant proposal. The grant proposal should give appropriate attention to theoretical, ethical, diversity and methodological issues, as well as encompass several studies, if appropriate.

Committee Selection. A three-person committee will grade the students' second doctoral exam. The three-person committee should have the following composition: (a) The student's primary faculty advisor (Chair of the committee); (b) A second committee member, chosen by the student and the faculty advisor together; and (c) A third committee member from the Program chosen by

the training area program head, regardless of area of expertise. The committee for the Second Doctoral Exam is likely to include members of the student's Dissertation Committee, however the committees need not be the same.

Evaluation of the Examination. The Second Doctoral Examination will be graded on a pass, qualified pass, or fail basis. In order to successfully complete the Second Doc requirement, the student must earn a "pass" from 2 of the 3 members on the Second Doc committee, with no "fails". A "pass" indicates that the student has successfully completed the requirement and no revisions to the written work will be required. A "qualified pass" indicates that reasonable and minor revisions are required. In the event that a student receives a "qualified pass" from the majority of the committee, the student can re-submit the revisions for final approval by the second doctoral committee chair. A "fail" indicates that significant and substantial revisions are required in order to pass the exam and that the student has failed to meet the minimum requirements of the exam.

In the Case of Failure. Students who fail to meet the requirements of their committee more than once will be subject to a written remediation plan (which includes criteria for successful versus unsuccessful completion), developed by the second doctoral committee and approved by the training area program head. If efforts to remediate the student are not successful, the student will be required to withdraw from the program.

Timing. Students are eligible to begin work on the Second Doctoral Examination once they have successfully completed the First Doctoral Examination. If the Second Doctoral Examination is not successfully completed by the beginning of the fall semester of the student's fifth year, then the student will not be able to register for that semester.

Revised 10/19/12 & Amended 12/4/12; Re-revised 12/21/12

Voted online: 12/21/12-1/8/13 OUTCOME: All revisions passed with majority votes, 1/9/13

THE 'OLD' REQUIREMENTS ARE SHOWN ON THE NEXT PAGE.

Psychology and Law Comprehensive Doctoral Exam (requirements that students entering before Fall 2013 can choose to fulfill)

Rationale for the Psychology and Law Comprehensive Doctoral Exam

The purpose of the Psychology and Law Comprehensive Doctoral Examination (“the Exam”) is to evaluate the student’s ability to integrate and critically evaluate their overall knowledge about current research and directions in Psychology. The Exam will test students’ ability to integrate knowledge that they have gained via coursework and practical research experience, and to critically address important issues in psychological theory, diversity/multiculturalism, research ethics, research methods and data analysis. Hence, the focus of this evaluation is on the student’s ability to integrate information from the relevant basic psychological theories, methodology, ethical issues, diversity issues, law, and research in the topic area.

Competencies to be Demonstrated

Competency in psychological theory will involve the following:

- (a) Productively applies existing theory to new problems and applications.
- (b) Appreciates strengths and weaknesses of theories from the perspective of competing theories.
- (c) Recognizes points of difference between competing theories and testable hypotheses that would distinguish between them.

Competency in ethics will involve correctly applying guidelines regarding treatment of human subjects in research settings and correctly applying ethical guidelines common to all forms of applied psychology.

The competencies assessed for research design and data analysis will include:

- (a) Recognizing the differential importance of research questions.
- (b) Connecting empirical findings to broader theoretical issues beyond the particular area of substantive research represented.
- (c) Understanding strengths and weaknesses of general research methods in an area of research.

The competencies assessed for diversity/multiculturalism will include:

- (a) Understanding how culture can affect the study of psychology.
- (b) Understanding how research findings and appropriate research questions can vary by culture.
- (c) Applying these understandings to the critical analysis of theory and research.

Timing

Students will likely begin working on their Exam after completing two years of coursework in the Program. The Exam will ordinarily be taken when the student has completed all coursework (i.e., 60 credits), including transfer credits. Therefore, the Exam will typically be taken after the formation of the Dissertation Committee, between the Second and Third Doctoral

Examinations. Successful completion of the Exam is a prerequisite for the scheduling and completion of the Third Doctoral Exam defense.

Committee for the Psychology and Law Comprehensive Doctoral Exam

The Psychology and Law Comprehensive Doctoral Examination Committee will be a subcommittee of the Curriculum and Examination Committee. All self-designated Psychology and Law faculty members will serve on the Committee and be eligible to grade Exams.

Requirements for the Exam

The Psychology and Law Comprehensive Doctoral Exam comprises two written products, which can be submitted simultaneously or in succession.

Either:

1. A 25 single-spaced page *Psychological Bulletin*-style review of research: (a) on a topic in a related area of psychology, such as social, developmental or cognitive; or (b) on a topic which bridges a related area of psychology (i.e., social, cognitive, etc.) with forensic-psychology and law. The treatment of the related area of psychology should not be incidental but represent a significant contribution to the theorizing and analysis in the manuscript. The topic will be agreed upon by the student and the three members of their comprehensive examination committee. The faculty committee members will include the student's primary advisor plus two readers drawn from the elected comprehensive examination committee.

- AND -

2. A full-scale, ready-to-submit (as judged by the comprehensive committee) NSF or NIMH grant proposal that gives appropriate attention to theoretical, ethical, diversity and methodological issues and which will typically encompass several experimental studies or quasi-experimental analyses.¹

- OR -

TWO complete, full-scale, ready-to-submit (as judged by the comprehensive committee) NSF or NIMH grant proposals that give appropriate attention to theoretical, ethical, diversity and methodological issues and which will typically encompass several experimental studies or quasi-experimental analyses.¹ Only one of these may overlap with the content of the Second Doctoral Examination.

¹ NOTE on grants: Diversity/multicultural issues are generally addressed, at a minimum, in the 'Broader Impact' statement, which has been increasingly important to NSF. Their emphasis on these issues was the basis for the choice of NSF and NIMH as grant venues. For details, see: <http://www.nsf.gov/pubs/gpg/broaderimpacts.pdf>

Grading of the Exam

The Psychology and Law Comprehensive Doctoral Exam will be graded by Exam subcommittees. Each Exam will be read by no fewer than *three* subcommittee members. Students will receive their Exam grades approximately one month after an Exam is submitted to the *subcommittee*.

Subcommittee Composition:

- (a) The student's primary mentor/advisor will Chair the student's Exam subcommittee(s).
- (b) The student and advisor together will select a second subcommittee member. This member will most likely be selected based upon knowledge of the topic/area under consideration.
- (c) The DET will select *at random* (and invite participation by) the third subcommittee member, regardless of area of expertise. This provides an opportunity for a variety of faculty members to contribute to student development through their unique perspectives and insights, distributes the workload, and represents the grant review process.
- (d) Students can have two different subcommittees – one for each written product.

Subcommittee Grading:

- (a) Once selected, the 3 subcommittee members will receive electronic copies of the student's Exam submission(s) for review. Their independent grades for each submission (pass/fail) should be available within approximately one month of receipt of the Exam(s).
- (b) Students *must pass both Exams unanimously*. If there is a discrepancy in the subcommittee members' grades, they should meet in-person to decide how to proceed. The subcommittee chairperson will coordinate this meeting.
- (c) Resolutions could involve partial or complete revision, resubmission and subcommittee re-grading; or partial or complete revision, resubmission and subcommittee chair re-grading.
- (d) If there are subcommittee disagreements that cannot be resolved, the DET can either appoint an additional subcommittee member or grade the Exam(s) him/herself in an effort to resolve the disagreement. However, in general, subcommittee members' concerns should be resolved by the student before an Examination is passed.

The subcommittee chairperson should report Exam grades to the DET, who will communicate them to the student officially and have them placed in the student's file.

Outcomes of the Exam

Each of the two written Exams will be graded with the following grades possible: "pass", "conditional pass" or "fail". A "pass" indicates that the student completed the requirement and the written Exam was satisfactory, as determined unanimously by the subcommittee. A "conditional pass" indicates that the written work requires relatively minor to moderate revisions before the document is considered satisfactory. The student will typically be required to revise and resubmit that component of the Exam for re-grading to the subcommittee chairperson or, in some cases, the full subcommittee. A "fail" indicates that the student failed to meet the minimum requirements of that Exam. If the student receives a "fail" on either component of the Exam, the student will typically be required to revise and resubmit that component of the Exam

for re-grading to the full subcommittee. To complete the Experimental Comprehensive Doctoral Exam requirement, the student must “pass” *both exams*. Any student failing a single Exam TWICE may be terminated from the Doctoral Program.

Timing & Satisfactory Completion of the Exam

Ordinarily, the Exam will be completed after a student earns 60 credits. Student must pass the Exam before they can schedule and complete the Third Doctoral Exam defense. Any student who does not successfully complete the Exam by January of their eighth year in the program (or by January of their seventh year, if matriculating with 30 credits) will be deemed as not making satisfactory progress within the Graduate Center guidelines. If the Exam is not passed by this point, the student will not be permitted to enroll in any additional classes in the Program before passing the exam. Students not making satisfactory progress for this reason will only be permitted to continue in the Program with special permission of the Subprogram Head.

Second Doctoral Examination (requirements that students entering before Fall 2013 can choose to fulfill)

The purpose of the Second Doctoral Examination is to evaluate the student's overall knowledge about Psychology and to evaluate the student's in depth knowledge about a specific topic area in Psychology or Psychology & Law. The focus of this evaluation will be on the student's understanding of relevant basic psychological theories, law, methodology, ethical issues, diversity issues, and research in this topic area. The topic area selected by the student will be the likely topic of the student's dissertation research, but it can be on any topic of the student's choosing. The goal of the Second Doctoral Exam is to allow the student to investigate an area of psychology in great depth and to prepare the student to develop a dissertation proposal that will make a significant research contribution to the field of Psychology or Forensic Psychology. The Second Doctoral Examination will take the form of a broad literature review and will require students to apply psychological theory to a legally relevant topic. The Second Doc will consist of two parts: (1) a written paper and (2) an oral presentation and defense of the written work.

Students will select the topic for their paper with the concurrence of his or her advisor. The paper will be a systematic critical review, similar to those published in the journals *Psychological Bulletin* or *Psychological Review*, with respect to topic, originality, timeliness, and coverage. That is, the review poses a conceptual or methodological question in a topic area, reviews the available literature on that question, and raises directions for future research or revision of a particular theory. The project is designed such that students should be able to adapt the literature review to serve as the introduction to their dissertation, should they choose to do so. However, the proposal defense for the doctoral dissertation is a separate requirement.

The Second Doctoral Exam Defense and the Dissertation Proposal Defense can occur on the same day, but the meeting shall be bifurcated. Committees may or may not be comprised of the same members and adequate time should be reserved for both meetings in the event they are held concurrently.

Eligibility and Timing

Students are eligible to begin work on the Second Doctoral Examination once they have successfully completed the First Doctoral Examination and 45 credits of coursework, including transfer credits. Students are required to notify the Program's Administrative Assistant immediately once they are prepared to present and defend their research so that the Second Doctoral Exam Defense may be scheduled in a timely manner.

Committee Selection

The committee for the Second Doctoral Exam generally will include the likely members of the student's Dissertation (Third Examination) Committee, however the committees need not be the same. The student's faculty advisor will chair the Second Doctoral Exam committee. The

committee will also include at least 2 other members of the Psychology Doctoral Faculty, or other faculty members who are eligible to serve on Program Doctoral Dissertation committees. The student will select the additional committee members, with the assistance of the faculty advisor. Students are required to provide each of their committee members with a written copy of their Second Doctoral paper *no later than three weeks prior to the oral defense*.

If the student chooses to defend the dissertation proposal in the same session as the Second Doc, please note that the external examiners need not be present during the Second Doc examination session. Please see section on Dissertation Proposal for details regarding the selection process of the external members of the dissertation proposal committee.

The Written Paper

The written paper will be an in-depth investigation of a specific topic area. The intent of the comprehensive written paper is to allow the student to investigate their area of research in depth. It is likely that this topic will be the basis for the dissertation, but it does not have to be the same topic as the dissertation.

The Oral Defense

The student will be required to orally defend the written paper to the members of his or her Second Doctoral Examination committee. The student will also be required to respond to any questions, on the topics covered in the presentation or on additional topics not covered in the presentation, posed by committee members.

Evaluation of the Examination

The Second Doctoral Examination will be graded on a pass, qualified pass, or fail basis. In order to complete the Second Doc requirement, the student must earn a “pass” from a majority of his or her Second Doc committee. A “pass” indicates that the student has completed the requirement and no revisions to the written work or additional oral defense of the written work will be required. A “qualified pass” indicates that the student has completed the majority of the requirement, but that reasonable revisions are required before proceeding. The student will be required to re-submit the project with revisions to the committee for its consideration. The committee may require an additional oral defense of the revised written work, if a majority of the committee members agree that an additional oral defense is required. A “fail” indicates that substantial revisions would be required in order to pass the Exam and that the student has failed to meet the minimum requirements of the Exam. The student will be required to re-submit a revised written paper and to orally defend that revised paper.

In the Case of Failure

Students who fail to meet the requirements of their committee more than once will be subject to a written remediation plan. If the efforts to remediate the student are not successful, the student will be required to withdraw from the program.