

Comprehensive Exam Essay Rubric

	Proficient	Competent	Unacceptable	Standard Met?	
Knowledge of Degree-Related Concepts/Vocabulary	In discussion of goals, concepts, and application, candidate vividly and effectively identifies and applies concepts and expertly articulates theoretical vocabulary relevant to field.	In discussion of goals, concepts, and application, candidate clearly identifies concepts and accurately articulates theoretical vocabulary relevant to field.	Candidate does not demonstrate knowledge of relevant conceptual and theoretical vocabulary regarding her/his field.	Yes/No	
Application of Concepts	Candidate effectively articulates problem or issue in chosen field then seamlessly applies concepts to produce communicative message to solve or address the problem or issue. Candidate successfully provides support for the production of her/his communicative message and it is explicitly relevant to her/his area of interest.	Candidate clearly articulates problem or issue in chosen field then connects concepts to produce communicative message to solve or address the problem or issue. Candidate provides support for the production of her/his communicative message and it is relevant to her/his area of interest.	Candidate does not identify problem or issue in chosen field and/or does not articulate how concepts would meaningfully address the problem or issue. Candidate does not provide support for production of her/his communicative message.	Yes/No	
Analysis of Concepts within Chosen Field	Candidate successfully identifies three concepts from three courses and seamlessly incorporates a minimum of ten readings. Candidate engages in a deep understanding of her/his selected field by effectively analyzing chosen concepts through theoretical, methodological, and/or stylistic lenses. Through her/his writing, candidate provides clear and relative examples of critical analysis, especially through example coursework and related assignments.	Candidate successfully identifies three concepts from three courses and clearly incorporates a minimum of ten readings. Candidate demonstrates understanding of her/his chosen field by clearly analyzing chosen concepts through theoretical, methodological, and/or stylistic lenses. Through her/his writing, candidate provides illustrative examples of coursework and related assignments in describing core concepts.	Candidate does not successfully identify three concepts from three courses and/or does not clearly incorporate a minimum of ten readings. Candidate does not demonstrate ability to critically analyze communication-related problems and products.	Yes/No	
Writing	Structure	The writing illustrates a high level of organization in relation to previews, summaries, and transitions.	The writing is generally organized, though could have a lack of preview or inconsistent use of effective transitions.	The writing lacks logical development of ideas and the candidate's main points are often unclear.	Yes/No
	Style	The writer is notably high achieving in her/his use of language and vivid examples.	The writer's individual style is acceptable, though may have capacity for improvement in terms of language and examples.	The writer needs marked improvement and may misuse words, provide trite examples, or have a lack of examples to support argument.	Yes/No
	Spelling/ Grammar/ Citations	The writing is free of all grammatical, spelling, and citation errors.	The writing is free of most grammatical, spelling, and citation errors.	The writing contains numerous grammatical, spelling, and citation errors.	Yes/No