

PERF MA - GUIDELINES FOR COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION TRACK

I. DESCRIPTION

The Comprehensive Examination (CE) is ideal for students who want to engage with a broad range of topics related to Performance Studies. Unlike regular final examinations, the CE is not linked to any particular course but rather tests knowledge *across* courses. In that way, it certifies that students have achieved a core level of mastery in the field.

Students taking the CE must have at least one main topic of interest. This could be a specific performance practice, scholar or artist, community, historical period, media, technology, theoretical framework, or method.

The CE has a written examination and a defense component.

II. COMMITTEE

After passing the Prospectus Defense, each MA student establishes a CE Committee in consultation with his/her advisor. The committee will consist of the graduate advisor (who is also the Committee Chair), at least one other faculty from the Department of Performance Studies, and one outside faculty. The student may also have on his/her committee a third internal committee member and a faculty from another TAMU department -- more than one external faculty must be approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

III. WRITTEN EXAMINATION

The written examination has seven questions, organized into two main sections. The first section (four questions) involves a range of issues in Performance Studies. This includes questions related to the history of the field (when, how, and why it emerged, for instance), prominent Performance Studies scholars, and theoretical and methodological trends. The second section (three questions) focuses on issues directly related to the student's topic(s) of interest. The Committee Chair will request multiple questions from the Committee member(s) but will be responsible for constructing the bulk of the examination.

It is up to the student to meet with committee members on an individual basis to discuss how best to prepare for the CE (e.g., creating reading lists).

The Chair will arrange with the student the date and method for delivering the exam. **The student must answer five of the seven questions provided by the Chair within two weeks of receipt of the exam.** Each response should be at least 2,500 words in length.

IV. DEFENSE (ORAL EXAMINATION)

After receiving the student's responses, the Chair will share the document with the rest of the committee and schedule the Oral Examination. The Oral Examination is usually scheduled two weeks after the committee members have received the student's written responses.

Before the Oral Examination, the student must:

1. Submit [Degree Plan](#) to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies (OGAPS) in the semester prior to graduation (see [OGAPS calendar](#) for deadlines).
2. Schedule date and time of the examination in consultation with the supervisor, committee members, and Director of Graduate Studies. Oral examinations are scheduled for 60 minutes.



3. [Apply for degree](#) and pay graduation fee.
4. Check to make sure degree program and advisory committee are up-to-date, and course work is complete.
5. Submit [Request and Announcement of the Final Examination](#) at least 10 working days before the oral examination (see [OGAPS calendar](#) for deadlines).

Defense Procedure

1. Student and committee meet briefly.
2. Student leaves the room.
3. Committee discusses any concerns and establishes the order of questioning.
4. Student comes back into the room.
5. Committee members ask student a round of questions. Time permitting, the committee asks a second round of questions.
6. Student leaves the room.
7. Committee discusses the written and oral components and votes on pass/fail:

Score	Description
1	Pass with no revisions (or minor revisions such as formatting or grammar)
2A	Pass with revisions to be approved by the supervisor
2B	Pass with revisions to be approved by the committee
3A	Fail with revisions
3B	Fail

8. Student comes back into the room.
9. Supervisor informs the student of pass/fail decision and of the requested revisions (if any):

Description	Action
Pass with no revisions	Committee and supervisor sign the <i>Report of the Final Examination</i> ; candidate
Pass with revisions to be approved by the supervisor	Committee signs the <i>Report of the Final Examination</i> ; candidate completes revisions and submits to supervisor for approval; supervisor signs the <i>Report of the Final Examination</i>
Pass with revisions to be approved by the committee	Candidate completes revisions and submits to committee and supervisor for approval; committee and supervisor sign the <i>Report of the Final Examination</i>
Fail with revisions	Candidate completes revisions and submits to committee and supervisor; candidate schedules a second defense, following the steps listed above.
Fail	Candidate does not receive the MA degree.

10. The defense concludes.

PERF MA - DEGREE PLAN FOR COMPREHENSIVE EXAMINATION TRACK

Course Prefix & Number	Course Title	Semester Credit Hours (SCH)
Required Foundational Courses (1st Year)		9
PERF 600	Graduate Scholarship in Performance Studies	3
PERF 601	Theories in Performance Studies	3
PERF 602	Research Methods in Performance Studies	3
Required Track Courses (2nd Year)		3
PERF 685	Directed Studies (with graduate advisor)	3
Elective Internal Courses		12-15
PERF 603-682 ¹ FILM 600-694 ²	[TBD] [TBD]	up to 15
PERF 685	Directed Studies	up to 3
PERF 689	Topics in Performance Studies	up to 6
Elective External Courses³		6-9
[TBD]	[TBD]	up to 9
_____ 685	Directed Studies (with external faculty)	up to 3
Total		36

¹ Pending approval from the DGS, students can take one additional PERF 685.

² Except FILM 685, FILM 689, and FILM 691.

³ Students must consult with their advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies before registering for external courses.