

**Ph.D. in Social Work and Social Research
Doctoral Comprehensive Examination Committee
Committee Guide for the Oral Examination**

Examination procedures

- Oral examination takes place when student has passed written examination.
- Only SSW faculty and Ph.D. students may attend, but do not participate.
- Only Comprehensive Examination Committee (CEC) members ask questions.
- Student presents paper and discusses annotated bibliography (≤ 30 minutes).
- CEC members engage in questions and discussions with student (≤ 90 minutes).
- Excusing student, CEC decides whether student passes exam; all must assent (≤ 30 minutes).
- CEC informs student of decision and offers commentary.

Evaluation framework

1. Publishable paper
 - a. Student effectively frames paper with conceptual foundation and clearly stated purpose and/or question
 - b. Student effectively explains and defends methods employed in paper
 - c. Student effectively reports findings
 - d. Student effectively draws and discusses appropriate conclusions
2. Annotated bibliography
 - a. Student effectively selects the literature (i.e., review is comprehensive, organized, and presents a clear rationale for topics covered)
 - b. Student effectively summarizes the literature (i.e., annotations highlight central features of readings in terms of conceptual frameworks, methods, findings, and implications)
 - c. Student effectively evaluates and synthesizes the literature (i.e., describes patterns, identifies areas of consensus, highlights debates and issues, outlines future directions)
3. Connections to coursework
 - a. Student can relate topic to the field of social welfare
 - b. Student can frame topic as a social problem or issue
 - c. Student can describe actual or potential interventions
 - d. Student can discuss relevant research questions and research methods
4. Preparation for dissertation scholarship
 - a. Student demonstrates sufficient knowledge of substantive area for dissertation research
 - b. Student demonstrates sufficient methodological expertise for dissertation research
 - c. Student demonstrates sufficient ability to discuss relevance and implications of research