

Field Examination Guidelines

1. All students must pass examinations in two recognized fields of the discipline.
2. The department regularly offers field exams in its clusters of expertise. Presently, this includes:
 - *Education
 - *Family, Life Course, and Sexualities
 - *Global Inequality and Change
 - *Immigration
 - *Population
 - *Social Inequality: Race/Ethnicity, Gender, and Class and Stratification
 - *Social Movements and Political Sociology
 - *Social Networks
 - *Organizations, Occupations, and Labor.
3. Every cluster normally will offer at least three courses per two-year period to prepare students for examinations. Students must satisfactorily complete at least two cluster courses before taking the examination, or they must demonstrate related competence to the satisfaction of two cluster faculty members. Additionally, clusters may provide reading lists of significant works in their fields beyond those covered in existing seminars.
4. Students may petition the graduate director(s) to take examinations in alternative recognized fields of the discipline, contingent on the agreement of two faculty members to guide the student's preparation and evaluate the exam.
5. Unless otherwise specified by the cluster coordinator, examinations will be administered on university premises over an eight-hour period including a one-hour break, and students may use hard copies of notes but not books or electronic media. The final product must be presented in a standard word-processed format.
6. Examinations will normally be comprised of six to eight broad questions, from which students will answer three to four. Cluster faculty will decide on the appropriate number and balance of questions.
7. In most circumstances, old questions will be available to students to help prepare for examinations.
8. The cluster coordinator and one additional cluster faculty member will evaluate the exam. In the event of a disagreement, a third cluster member will read the exam and adjudicate.
9. Examinations will be evaluated on honors pass/pass/partial pass/no pass bases, normally within two weeks of the exam date. The honors pass will be reserved for exceptional performances overall. The partial pass will be granted when at least one question on an exam is answered satisfactory while at least one other is not. As determined by the examiners, students who do not pass initially may retake the exam (or a question or questions from it) at any agreed-upon time within a year of the original test date.
10. To satisfy the requirements for the second field examination, students may submit work from three satisfactorily completed courses (or cluster-approved substitutes) to a committee of two faculty members. The work must coalesce around an established cluster in the department or, with the approval of the graduate director(s) and two faculty members, around an alternative recognized field in the discipline.