



THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

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Comprehensive Exam Information, M.Ed. Reading

Criteria for Passing Score

- Information included in the essays is clearly derived from course work and readings, as well as educational practice (educational practice includes your practicum and pre-practicum experiences, as well as your teaching experience).
- A **wide variety** of courses, readings, and experiences are cited. **One or two sources should not dominate all of the essay responses.** It is clear your reading and experience are broad (e.g., not simply influenced by one single theorist, reading, course, or experience).
- Responses to essay questions demonstrate ability to integrate information from a variety of sources.
- Conventions of writing are observed in regard to sentence structure, paragraphing, spelling, and punctuation.
- Citations are accurate (names of authors and titles of books/articles are sufficient) and clearly related to the essay topic.

Note: Exams are read by faculty members in the program. If the faculty member reading your exam is considering a grade of "F," a second faculty member reads the exam. You are allowed only two attempts to pass the comprehensive exam. Exams, including second attempts, may be taken only on the regularly scheduled dates. For dates visit http://www.salemstate.edu/graduate/comprehensive_exams.php

Tips on Studying

For the comprehensive exam you will write three essays in response to three broad questions. These essays should demonstrate 1) broad knowledge of the field indicated by a wide variety of references to researchers and theorists and 2) an ability to integrate and apply academic knowledge, course content, practicum and pre-practicum experiences, and your classroom teaching experience to issues related to literacy and schooling.

To study for this exam, you should review all of the class notes and course texts from your program. One study idea to help organize and remember information is to create index cards with categories (e.g., assessment) and associated information, as well as index cards with the names of researchers and theorists (and associated information such as summaries of research or theory, book or article titles, etc). You could then do a card sort – matching categories with theorist/researcher cards.