

## **Comprehensive Examination Guidelines MA Child Development**

The purpose of the comprehensive exam is to test a student's acquisition of knowledge in core areas of study. The cumulative exam will be disseminated and completed as a take home exam. The 7 questions will be provided via email the third week of Spring term or by the date agreed upon with the Director of the MACD program. A student will have 4 days from Monday at 9am to Friday 9am to respond to all questions. This format will allow the use of notes and other sources (books, articles). Students are not allowed to discuss any part of the exam with others. Responses to each question will be assessed based on the depth and breadth of the response. Given more resources are allowed in this take-home format, high quality detailed responses will be expected. Responses to each question typically range from 7-10+ pages of text (not including the list of references at the end of each question). Using appropriate APA formatting including in-text citations and list of references is expected. The questions are to remain private, no sharing of questions, question responses or other information about the comprehensive exam is allowed.

For the master's program in Child Development, students will be expected to demonstrate knowledge in the following areas:

1. Development of the whole child from infancy through adolescence.
2. Basic research methodology.
3. Advanced Cognitive processes.
4. Families and parenting.
5. Developmental Neuroscience.
6. Social-Emotional Development
7. Theories of Child Development
8. Assessment of Young Children
9. Interactions with children

To this end, students will complete 7 examination essay questions that will relate directly to the core courses listed below required in the MACD program. The courses are:

1. CD 5531. Best Practice with Young Children (3 units)
2. CD 6614. Theories of Child Development (3)
3. CD 6624. Advanced Developmental Neuroscience (3 units)
4. CD 6648. Social-Emotional Development (3)
5. CD 6651. Advanced Cognitive Development (3)
6. CD 6659. Early Childhood Assessment (3 units)
7. CD 6690. Families and Parenting (3)
8. PSYC 6640. Advanced Methods in Psychological Research (3)

Questions for each course will be developed by the instructor or most recently responsible for teaching the course.

Exams will be graded by two faculty reviewers. Each question will be read by each reviewer of the panel and will be given a score of pass, pass subject to revision, or fail. Students receiving a grade of "pass subject to revision" will be asked to complete an oral defense of each answer needing additional support. If it is deemed after this oral defense that the student has adequate command of the subject matter at hand, their grade will be changed to "pass." Students earning a grade of fail on the examination will be asked to retake the examination the following spring

and will receive a failing grade in CD 6980. During this time, students are advised to work with their major advisor regarding a plan of remediation.

Students will not be eligible to pass the exam and/or orally redress answers needing revision unless they meet the following conditions:

1. Receive a grade of pass on 4 or more answers
- AND
2. Receive a grade of fail on no more than 1 answer

Students who do not meet these conditions will need to retake the exam in its entirety the following term.

There is no formal reading list for the exam. Students will be held responsible for all readings and lectures given in each course.

Study groups are highly advisable. Working with other students often highlights holes in your personal knowledge base and can remind you of important concepts/points not previously considered.

If you have other questions about the exam please contact me at [amy.vanschagen@csusb.edu](mailto:amy.vanschagen@csusb.edu) or 909-537-3841. Good luck!!