

Experimental Psychology PhD Program
COMPREHENSIVE EXAM – ALTERNATIVE PROJECT

Last updated: July 16, 2006

Graduate students in the doctoral program in Experimental Psychology at DePaul may elect to complete the traditional Comprehensive Examination offered through the Psychology Department. Alternatively, a student after consultation with his/her Program Advisor and Thesis Chair, may choose to complete an Alternative Project to meet the degree requirement.

In June, 2006, the Experimental PhD program faculty approved giving students the option of writing and submitting a significant grant proposal as fulfillment of the comprehensive exam requirement. The student who wishes to exercise this option will need to select a 'Project Chair' and at least one (1) other program faculty as "reader." The student, in consultation with these faculty, will then write a short (two to four page) 'proposal' or rationale for this project. The rationale should (a) identify the specific granting agency, grant program and application deadline; (b) state the eligibility requirements and indicate how the applicant meets them; (c) state the purpose for which the student is seeking funding (e.g., to support dissertation work; funding for years 2-4 of graduate school, etc.); and (d) briefly describe the plan for developing and submitting the proposal, including a brief description of the content to be developed for the grant proposal and of the proposed research that the grant would fund, if applicable.

If the project chair, reader, and program director all approve the proposal, the student will then have one (1) calendar year to complete the Alternative Project and have it evaluated as acceptable by the Faculty Chair, Project Reader, and Program Director (the student's Comps Committee). Once the project (grant application) is completed and evaluated as acceptable, the student will be certified as having completed the comprehensive examination requirement. If the student does not complete the Alternative Project by the end of that year, the student then will be required to complete the traditional Comprehensive Examination.

In general, successful completion and certification of the Alternative Project will require that the student complete the grant application and submit it to the funding agency. In some exceptional cases, however, the student's Comps Committee may certify a completed draft of a grant proposal that has not yet been submitted to a funding agency, such as an application for dissertation funding when the funding agency will only accept applications from students who have already been admitted to candidacy and successfully defended their dissertation proposal. In such cases the student must write the full grant proposal, specify the agency to which the application will be submitted and specify the planned submission date. The student will not be permitted to schedule the final dissertation defense until after the grant application has been submitted.

**Comprehensive Exam Alternative Project Application
Experimental Psychology PhD Program, DePaul University**

This form must be completed, signed, and attached to the approved Alternative Project proposal.

STUDENT NAME: _____

DATE OF MA/MS THESIS COMPLETION: _____

DUE DATE FOR 'ALTERNATIVE PROJECT' COMPLETION: _____

TITLE OF PROPOSAL: _____

I have read, understood, and agree with the above Experimental Psychology Program requirements, stipulations, and consequences (i.e., not completing the Alternative Project within one (1) calendar year will result in being required to take and pass the Comprehensive Exam).

STUDENT NAME: (print): _____ (DATE) _____

(signature): _____

We have evaluated and approved the Alternative Project proposal named above, and grant the above named student permission to begin work on the project. At the completion of the project, we will evaluate it to determine whether it is acceptable for fulfillment of the Experimental Psychology PhD Comprehensive Exam requirement.

PROJECT CHAIR: (print): _____ (DATE) _____

(signature): _____

PROJECT READER: (print): _____ (DATE) _____

(signature): _____

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: (print): _____ (DATE) _____

(signature): _____

NOTE: If the Alternative Project is not completed within a 12-month calendar year, the above student will be required to successfully pass the Comprehensive Exam.

[This form will be kept in the student's file]

**Comprehensive Exam Alternative Project Final Approval Form
Experimental Psychology PhD Program, DePaul University**

This form must be completed, signed, and attached to the approved Alternative Project after the project is completed.

STUDENT NAME: _____

TITLE OF PROJECT: _____

DATE COMPLETED AND EVALUATED: _____

DATE ACCEPTED: _____

(Note: This is the date on which the student is considered to have passed the Experimental PhD Comprehensive Exam and been admitted to candidacy. It can not be earlier than the date that the student completed the Master's Thesis. It need not be the same date that the project was evaluated.)

DATE GRANT APPLICATION SUBMITTED TO FUNDING AGENCY: _____

(This date must be written in after the grant application has actually been submitted. Note: In most cases, submission of the application to the funding agency is required before certification of the Comps Alternative Project. If the Alternative Project is certified as accepted for fulfillment of the Comprehensive Exam requirement before the grant proposal is submitted to a funding agency, such approval is conditional upon the student submitting the application to the funding agency prior to scheduling his or her final dissertation defense.)

We have evaluated and approved the completed Alternative Project named above, and certify that it has been accepted as fulfillment of the Experimental Psychology PhD Comprehensive Exam requirement.

PROJECT CHAIR: (print): _____ (DATE) _____

(signature): _____

PROJECT READER: (print): _____ (DATE) _____

(signature): _____

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: (print): _____ (DATE) _____

(signature): _____

[This form will be kept in the student's file.]