

## Comprehensive Exam – Quick Reference

### Exam Components

Literature Review	Research Proposal	Presentation	Question Period
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Short review on a topic from the current literature</li> <li>• A critical analysis of the field and insights about remaining challenges</li> <li>• 3,000 - 6,000 words total (including the proposal, not including references)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Proposal for future research</li> <li>• Must contain a clear research question</li> <li>• Describe your methodology and experimental approach</li> <li>• 1,000 - 2,000 words (approx. ¼ - ⅓ of report)</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A presentation that covers both your review and your research proposal</li> <li>• Open to everyone, but the primary audience is your advisory committee</li> <li>• 25 - 30 min</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two rounds of questions based on your report and presentation</li> <li>• Most questions will come from your advisory committee, but all faculty present may ask questions</li> <li>• Approx. 60 - 120 min</li> </ul>

### Timelines



All PhD students must complete the comprehensive exam **within 40 months** of starting their graduate program.