

Comprehensive Exam to Advance to Master's Candidacy

In our Clinical Psychology Ph.D. program, students are expected to earn a Master's degree "en route" to the doctoral degree, unless this requirement is waived for a student who entered the program with a Master's degree. The Graduate College requires a "comprehensive exam" to advance to Master's candidacy in the same way they require a comprehensive exam to advance to doctoral candidacy (See Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam in Clinical Psychology).

In our Clinical Psychology doctoral program, the comprehensive exam to advance to Master's candidacy consists of (1) a written examination (i.e., a Master's Thesis proposal that is deemed satisfactory by the 3-person Master's Thesis committee) and (2) an oral examination (i.e., a committee decision of "pass" at the Master's Thesis proposal meeting).

When the Graduate College asks you for the date upon which you passed your Master's comprehensive examination, which they will do when you complete your intent to graduate form for conferral of your Master's degree, you should report the date upon which you held a successful proposal meeting or the date upon which your Committee approved any required changes to your written proposal—whichever comes last.

The official UVM Graduate College Catalog description of this requirement is much more succinct and follows:

Comprehensive Examination

A written thesis proposal and an oral examination of the proposal serves as the comprehensive examination. The Comprehensive Examination requirement should be completed by the end of the first semester of the second year in the program.

Requirements for Advancement to Candidacy for the Degree of Master of Arts

Satisfactory completion of the comprehensive examination.

Effective September 2018.