

Qualifying Exam Instructions

For the next six weeks, you get to focus on areas of research that you have identified as your area of interest. It is the doctoral committee's intention that these questions provide a guide to developing a scholarly understanding of your topic. It is expected that students devote the 6-week written exam period to focus on completing this exam. It is required that students complete this project independently. Students may consult with their chair if clarification is needed about the questions or directions. Otherwise, this project is to represent this student's own fully independent work. Consider completing a timeline to allow sufficient time to review and proofread carefully.

The qualifying questions are designed to assist the student with demonstrating the following skills:

- (1) Locate, summarize, and critique psychosocial literatures that are directly relevant to your topic of interest
- (2) Integrate these literatures in ways that help you identify the important gaps in what we know about your area of interest.
- (3) Write clear, systematic, organized answers that are supported by relevant research literature.

The Qualifying Exam is a required training activity that helps students acquire and demonstrate substantial understanding of and competence in (i) Research and (v) Communications and Interpersonal Skills. To Pass one's Qualifying Exam, it is necessary for the student to demonstrate competence in both (i) and (v) at the written and then oral steps of the Qualifying Exam.

Specific Directions: Students are expected to write one "stand alone" paper per question. Before each paper, please include a cover page listing the question being answered. The questions are broken down into sub-parts. All papers should be in APA style. References can all be listed at the end of the document and do not count toward page limits. Given page constraints prioritize writing about those aspects that are most relevant, important, and/or cited.

Question 1: Text here. (XX-XX pages)

- a. Text here.
- b. Text here.

Question 2: Text here. (XX-XX pages)

- a. Text here.
- b. Text here.

Question 3: Text here. (XX-XX pages)

- a. Text here.
- b. Text here.

Question 4: Text here. (XX-XX pages)

- a. Text here.
- b. Text here.

Question 5: Text here. (XX-XX pages)

- a. Text here.
- b. Text here.

Question 6: Text here. (XX-XX pages)

- a. Text here.
- b. Text here.

Timeline:

Start Date: DAY OF WEEK, MONTH DATE, YEAR: Receive this Qualifying Exam Instructions document from Penny Cruse or your Major Professor. This is the first day of your writing period.

End Date: DAY OF WEEK, MONTH DATE, YEAR: Submit electronic answers to all questions in a single word document file via email to all committee members by the end of the writing period. **If a committee member requests a paper copy of your answers, you will print out and provide a copy.**

Oral Defense Date: DAY OF WEEK, MONTH DATE, YEAR