

Hartford Seminary PhD Comprehensive Exam

II- The Comprehensive Exams:

The Comprehensive Exams are intended to assess competency of comprehensive knowledge of selected fields of study (Learning Outcome #1) through two major exams and mastery of a specific field of specialization (Learning Outcome #2) in two minor exams. . The comprehensive exams will take at the end of the spring semester of that year of stage two. The exams are as follows:

1- ***Two Major Exams:*** students must make two exams in the program's two major areas of study: Islamic Studies and Christian-Muslim Relations, Theologies of Interreligious Engagement/Interfaith Dialogue.

In collaboration with their advisor, students will suggest the topic and scope of their exams and select sources for each exam drawn from the two sets of core bibliographies and additional works agreed upon by the advisor and student. The list of sources should be agreed upon by the end of the semester of the fall term of the second year.

From these sources, the advisor and Director of the PhD program, will draw up the questions. The student will be notified of these questions a week before the exam.

The date for the exams will be set so as to be completed by the end of the spring term; normally on a Tuesday and Thursday of the same week.

Students will have six hours to complete each exam, with a one hour break. (International students or those for whom English is not their primary language will be given an additional hour to complete the exams.)

These exams will be assessed and marked by two professors whose expertise is relevant to the two chosen subjects. If possible, an external examiner will be utilized.

2- ***Two Minor Exams:*** students will be required to propose two subjects relevant to their research focus to produce to scholarly/research papers on. The papers need to demonstrate sufficient knowledge of classic Arabic and/or to demonstrate sufficiently and solidly the students' competence in engaging in original research in these selected areas.

The focus and scope of the papers should be established in consultation with the Advisor by the end of the fall term of the second year. Both should be due by March 1st of the spring term.

These two papers will be read, assessed and marked by two professors whose expertise is relevant to the two chosen subjects. The papers should be considered as potential submission to peer-reviewed scholarly journals and follow the normal conventions for the relevant journals of the field in which the student is researching.

In lieu of one or two exams, a student may submit a previously submitted and accepted, or published paper from a scholarly peer-reviewed journal during their first stage of the PhD program, in one of the areas of examination. This would demonstrate competency in said field.

The comprehensive exam's four exams are all to be conducted at the **end of the spring semester** of that year of stage two. The PhD committee will meet to assess the exams and then inform the student on the committee's decision in an official letter/message. For the major exams the committee may elect to: pass, ask for the student to retake one or both exams (after a three-six month period), or fail. For the minor exams the committee may elect to: pass, ask for a re-write one or both papers, or fail.

In the case in which the student is found deficient, the committee may elect to terminate the student's candidacy, and award an M.A. degree.