

New Policy on Structure of Comprehensive Exam

Dear students,

Because we are committed to making the comps both productive and constructive, we have made a few changes. Please read the changes closely as they will affect those of you who haven't yet passed the comps.

1) The comprehensive exam will still consist of one question for each of the 6 required core courses. There will now be 3 questions on day 1 and three questions on day 2. **There will be a mix of knowledge and application questions on each day.**

2) **In order to pass the comps, students must pass a total of 6 questions (one for each course). One retake is allowed only for *specific questions (courses) not yet passed.*** In other words, failing one question no longer means that entire day has been failed, but, rather, only *that question* needs to be repeated.

3) Students have 2 **opportunities** to pass the comps in written format. In cases where a student has successfully passed **at least four questions** after the second attempt, he or she will have the opportunity to **orally** defend his or her knowledge of the concepts related to the **1 or 2 remaining courses** in front of a faculty panel. A successful oral defense means that student passes the comprehensive exam; likewise, an unsuccessful oral defense means the student does not pass the comprehensive exam.

NOTE: For those students who have taken the exam previously but not yet passed both days, please talk with your advisor who will give you a choice to continue in the old system or shift into the new system.

Case Study:

Joe Ed Tech takes the comprehensive exam in Fall 2006. He does quite well and passes questions related to EDCI 591T, 513, 572, and **564/573**. He needs to now pass questions related to EDPS 533 and EDCI 561. On round two, he answers only those two questions, and he passes the question for EDPS 533. He will now **be asked to** go in front of a faculty panel to defend his knowledge of the concepts from EDCI 561.