

## Requirements for Qualifying Paper in Cognitive Neuroscience

Students in the Cognitive Neuroscience Program are required to complete a Comprehensive Exam following the successful defense of their Masters Project. In the Cognitive Neuroscience Program the Comprehensive Exam requirement is met by completion of a review paper that is prepared for journal submission.

Students should form their dissertation committee and submit the online milestone (old D1 Form) (<https://gradschool.fiu.edu/online-dissertation-milestones/>) before beginning the qualifying paper. The review paper topic should be discussed with the dissertation committee. The student must be lead author on the review.

In consultation with their advisor and with their dissertation committee members, students are to construct the review to meet two goals. The first goal is to publish the paper in a peer-reviewed journal. Some examples of target journals that publish review articles would be *Brain*, *Psychological Bulletin*, *Developmental Review*, *Psychological Review*, *Neuroscience and Biobehavioral Reviews*, *Nature Reviews Neuroscience*. Students may also opt to conduct a theoretical review or meta-analysis for their review paper, and this would expand the scope of potential target journals.

The second goal is to construct an expansive review of their dissertation topic. Therefore, the qualifying paper should have direct relevance to the topic of the dissertation. It can be used, for example, as introductory material for the dissertation.

Students should work closely at all phases with their major professor, exchanging drafts and revising the paper. When the paper is ready to submit to a journal, students will submit their qualifying paper to their committee, who will review the paper. The committee will review the paper within one month of submission.

The committee will review the paper and evaluate it by the standards of the target journal to which the student (in consultation with the committee) will submit the paper, and by the CASE rubrics (<https://case.fiu.edu/psychology/resources/assets/graduate-student-rubrics.pdf>). These rubrics should be filled out by each committee member.

Oral defense of the Qualifying Paper is optional and is determined in consultation with the Dissertation Committee.

Based on these guidelines, the student will pass the Comprehensive Exam by simple majority vote of the committee (i.e., each committee member will vote to pass or not pass the student). If the student does not pass the qualifying exam, the student will have one opportunity to revise the paper (in the case of a tied vote on a committee with an even number of members, the student will need to revise and re-submit the paper). The student must revise the paper for re-review within one semester of the first review, by the deadline determined by UGS for that semester. If the student does not pass the qualifying exam on the second attempt, they will be discontinued in the program. In the case of a tied vote on the second review, the student may petition the Graduate Director to cast the deciding vote.

Upon passing the Comprehensive Exam, the committee will inform the Program Director, who will add a memorandum to the student's file, and the student will proceed to the next steps on the way to the PhD, which are to defend the Dissertation Proposal and submit the appropriate online milestones (Dissertation Proposal and Advancement to Candidacy).