



**Doctoral Comprehensive  
Examination Request 2009**

- I wish to take the Comprehensive Examination in August 2009.
- I have received the Memo (attached)
- I will be responsible for their content and the content of the portion of the Doctorate in Clinical Psychology Program Handbook concerning the Comprehensive Examination.

\_\_\_\_\_ I have completed all prerequisite courses (see page two for listing of courses) and expect to be in good standing and have an overall GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale by August 1, 2009.

\_\_\_\_\_ I will have completed all the prerequisite courses (see page two for listing of courses) including the one listed below which I will complete during Summer Session 2009. I will be in good standing and have an overall GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale by August 1, 2009.

**Indicate course taken in Summer semester:**

**Students who sit for the exam have two chances to pass. If the exam is not passed on the second attempt, the student will be automatically dismissed from the program.**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Social Security #

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (printed)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature

Following submission of this request, a student's coursework is reviewed, and the student will receive confirmation if he/she has fulfilled all requirements to sit for the exam. Or, a student will receive a letter indicating deficiencies that need to be cleared before the student can sit for the Comprehensive Exam.

**Return this completed page to the Toni Hopkins-Johnson, Clinical  
Psychology Department Administrator by Friday, June 5, 2009**

The following courses are the required prerequisites for students in the general PsyD program of study.

If you have a minor, your required coursework may be different. If you have questions please contact Toni Hopkins-Johnson at [tohopkins@argosy.edu](mailto:tohopkins@argosy.edu) or (312)777-7672.

Course Number	Course Name	Semester Completed	Credit
PP 7000	History and Systems		3
PP 7020	Child & Adolescent Development		3
PP 7051	Biological Basis of Behavior		3
PP 7080	Personal & Professional Development (x2 semesters)		2
PP 7100	Professional Issues: Ethics, Conduct & Law		3
PP 7110 & 7111	Professionalization Group (x2 semesters)		2
PP 7320	Health and Human Dysfunction I		3
PP 7321	Health and Human Dysfunction II		3
PP 7341	Treatment Issues with Diverse Populations		3
PP 7365	Clinical Interviewing		3
PP 7370	Cognitive Assessment		3
PP 7371	Objective Personality Assessment		3
PP 7372	Projective Personality Assessment		3
PP 8185	Social Psychology and Difference		3
PP 7373	Integrative Assessment		2
PP 8470	Adult Development and Aging		3
	Intervention Elective - I		3
	Intervention Elective - II		3
	Intervention Elective - III		3
PP 8201	Practicum I		3
PP 8202	Practicum II		3



## **Doctoral Comprehensive Examination Memo 2009**

All Psy.D. students take the same Comprehensive Examination regardless of the term of entry. The material covered on the Examination will reflect the courses taken by the full-time cohort group that entered three academic years prior.

The School expects that by the end of three years of professional training students should be ready and able to integrate the material they have learned into a form demonstrating breadth and depth, organization and sophistication as demonstrated on the Comprehensive Examination.

The Comprehensive Examination serves three purposes: (1) to help students develop and apply the various pieces of information they have obtained in classes into an organized and integrated body of knowledge; (2) to identify students who have not developed this body of knowledge or cannot successfully apply it so as to assist them towards success; and (3) to evaluate the success of the teaching and curriculum presentation.

Students must take the Comprehensive no later than the beginning of their fifth year after enrolling in the doctoral program. The Comprehensive Exam must be successfully completed within the time limits of the program.

### ***Description of Procedures for the 2009 Comprehensive Exam.***

1. The Comprehensive Exam will be given in a take-home format. The question is available for pick up anytime after 12:00 P.M. on **Friday, August 21, 2009**. Answers must be returned on or before **Friday, September 4, 2009**, by 12:00 P.M.to:

Attention: Toni Hopkins-Johnson, Clinical Psychology Department Administrator  
Argosy University, Chicago Campus  
225 N. Michigan, Suite 1300  
Chicago, IL 60601,

2. The exam will consist of only one question. This question will be the integrative question and retain the form it has taken in past years.

3. Answers must be typed, double-spaced, with a minimum of 1" margins. The length of the answer is limited to 16 pages unless otherwise specified. Points will be deducted for every page beyond 16 pages. You are advised to make copies of your answers to retain for your own reference.

4. Citations should be made in the text using APA style. All references to theories, research, articles, books, other scholarly sources, etc. should be referenced using APA style. Whenever possible, it is preferable to cite primary sources and authors rather than

secondary sources or authors. For example, cite actual work by Freud, Skinner or Minuchin rather than a review text that summarizes their theory. Students should include a reference list; these pages will not be counted in the sixteen (16) page limit noted above.

5. Each student is required to work alone. Access to books, notes, and library resources is allowed, but questions and proposed answers are not to be discussed with anyone! Any breach of ethics in completing the exam may be cause for dismissal from the program.

6. The answer must be thoroughly proofread to correct all typos and misspellings.

7. Students must complete all pre-requisite courses and be in good academic standing to take the Comprehensive Exam. Students in the general doctoral program and in the minors should consult the *Academic Catalog* to determine the prerequisite coursework required in their particular curriculum. The only exception is as follows:

- If you are registered for a required course in the Summer semester

This information must be provided on the request form you are required to submit to the Clinical Psychology Department Administrator to apply for the examination.

**Any student taking the exam, regardless of the term of entry in the doctoral program, will have to complete all courses as listed in the 2007-2008 Academic Catalog.**

The Comprehensive Exam will focus on the following courses:

History & Systems

Conceptual and Empirical Views of Health and Human Dysfunction

Lifespan Development

Issues in the Assessment & Treatment of Racially & Ethnically Diverse

Populations

Social Psychology and Difference

Professional Issues: Ethics, Conduct, and Law

Basic Intervention Skills

Biopsychosocial Conceptualizations and Influences on Human Health and Dysfunction

Three of the following seven courses required to fulfill the Basic Intervention Electives:

Client-Centered Psychotherapy

Cognitive-Behavioral Theory and Psychotherapy

Family and Couples Therapy

Psychoanalytic Theory and Psychotherapy

Child Psychotherapy

Group Psychotherapy

Brief Psychotherapy

8. The answer submitted to the integrative question will be graded using the criteria that have been used in the past to grade the Comprehensive Exam (i.e., breadth of knowledge, depth of knowledge, integration of knowledge and quality of answer). Breadth of knowledge refers to the completeness with which a student has answered the question. This includes a demonstrated range of knowledge across different perspectives within a theory or of different theoretical and empirical literature relating to an issue being addressed. Breadth also refers to a student's ability to answer all the different aspects or facets of a question being asked. Depth of knowledge refers to the demonstration of more than a mere superficial grasp of the theories and/or empirical literature being used to answer a question. The student should be able to demonstrate an appreciation for the intricacies and complexities of the theory and empirical literature being employed to answer a question. A similar appreciation for the intricacies and complexities of the material provided to answer a question should be demonstrated. Integration of knowledge refers to a student's ability to accurately, thoughtfully, meaningfully, and relevantly apply theoretical and empirical literature to the data provided in the question. Quality of answer refers to the overall writing quality of the exam. Students should be able to articulate their ideas in a clear, organized and articulate fashion. Quality also refers to an answer being carefully proof read and edited.

9. Answers to the Integrative question can receive one of three grade designations; pass, revise and resubmit, and fail. Revise and resubmit indicates that the answer does not meet acceptable standards, but likely can be improved within a limited period and prior to leaving for Internship. If an answer is judged inadequate by two faculty members, a grade of fail is assigned. All failing exams are given a second read. For each failing exam, a passing exam is also distributed to a faculty member for a second read to insure fairness. Failure requires that a student retake the Exam in August of the following year. In addition, a remediation plan is developed to prepare the student to more successfully retake the Comprehensive Exam the next year.

10. In answering the Comprehensive Exam question, we suggest that you pay careful attention to what is asked and to applying ideas to material given in the question. If you are confused about what is being asked, the opportunity to get clarification from a faculty member will be provided. Samples of previous Comprehensive Exam questions and answers that met criteria for adequate application of ideas, breadth and depth of thought are available in the AU, Chicago Library.

11. Students wishing to take the Comprehensive Exam must register with the Clinical Psychology Department Administrator. The requirements of completion of the prerequisite coursework and good academic standing will be confirmed. You will receive a letter that confirms your eligibility to take the Exam.