



Master of Arts in Language, Literature, and Translation

Exam Components

The comprehensive examinations comprise a certain number of components: typically 3 components (in the case of single concentrators) or 4 components (in the case of double concentrators). The exact components will vary according to the individual student's plan of study and/or concentration, and will be determined by the members of the examining committee.

The exams typically include

- one 2-hour essay question OR, for students in Translation, a one-hour timed translation exam
- a series of shorter questions related to a specified field (2 hours) OR, for students in Translation, a 24-hour take home response to one theoretical question
- a 1-2 hour oral examination OR, for students in Translation, a final written reflection

The exams of students who have a double concentration will also include

- a second essay question in the student's second area of concentration

Exam Formats

1. In person written exam (blue book or computer) & face-to-face oral examination

Single concentration (4 hours):

- a) One 2-hour essay question
- b) 2-hours: Shorter questions related to a specific field or a textual interpretation, depending on the area.
- c) 1 -1 ½ hour oral examination 7-12 days after the written exam (a skype oral examination is possible in exceptional cases)

Double concentration (5 hours):

- a) One 1-hour essay, short question or multiple choice question, to be determined by major professors in both areas of concentration
- b) One 2-hour essay question, or short questions related to one area of concentration
- c) One 2-hour essay question related to the second area of concentration
- d) 1 -1 ½ hour oral examination 7-12 days after the written exam (a skype oral examination is possible in exceptional cases)

2. Online exam (required of all students with a single concentration in Translation)

The exam questions are distributed using the Desire 2 Learn (D2L) online course platform. The exam is timed so that examinees may only access one part of the exam at a time. Each portion is allotted its time as indicated below, with a 10-minute window for downloading and uploading from and to D2L. Note: late submission of the exam is grounds for failure; in some cases students may be required to submit a follow-up essay.

- Translation: a one-hour timed translation exam [students choose 1 of 2 texts; online and print dictionaries allowed];
- Essay question: a 24-hour take home response to one theoretical question that will be assessed as a scholarly paper [students choose 1 of 2 questions; online and print resources allowed; proper academic citation form must be followed using MLA or Chicago Manual of Style; 8 – 12 pages expected]. This question is based on the reading list and courses.
- Final reflection: no sooner than 7 days and no later than 12 days after having submitted the written portions, the candidate receives a list of no more than 8 questions referring specifically to choices made on the earlier translation and points made in the earlier essay, and ask the student to elaborate/defend/clarify. Candidates have a total of four hours to submit the final reflection; proper academic citation form must be followed.

N.B. Students, with approval of their examining committee, may under certain circumstances choose alternate formats. For example, a student with a double concentration in Translation & Language/Literature may choose, with the approval of the examination committee, to take the exam entirely online. In that case, the examination may comprise

- Translation: a one-hour timed translation exam [students choose 1 of 3 texts; online and print dictionaries allowed];
- Essay question: a 48-hour take home response to two questions (one of Translation theory; the other from the second concentration's respective field of study; students choose 1 of 2 questions in each area of concentration). These will be assessed as scholarly papers [online and print resources allowed; proper academic citation form must be followed using MLA or Chicago Manual of Style; 8 – 12 pages expected]. One question is in the area of Translation, the other in the area of the second concentration, exact format be determined on a case-by-case basis by major professors in both areas of concentration;
- Final reflection: no sooner than 7 days and no later than 12 days after having submitted the written portions, the candidate receives a list of no more than 10 questions referring specifically to choices made on the earlier translation and points made in the earlier essay, and ask the student to elaborate/defend/clarify. Candidates have a total of five hours to submit the final reflection; proper academic citation form must be followed.

The examination committee for each student is charged with determining the specific format for the exam in each case, in consultation with the student and taking into account whether or not the student is on-campus or is taking their MA entirely online.

In the case of a double concentration, the student must choose a Major Professor who will serve as the Chair of the Comprehensive Examinations, and who will be responsible for its organization.