Master's Comprehensive Exam

Why do we have them?

- To synthesize in writing the knowledge gained through coursework and experiences during the graduate program.

- To demonstrate professional content knowledge of the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) Common Core of Knowledge and Skills Essential for All Beginning Special Education Teachers (2009).

- Program evaluation: to assure program goals and objectives related to student content knowledge mastery.

Common Core of Knowledge and Skills Essential for All Beginning Special Education Teachers (CEC, 2009)

1. Foundations
2. Development and Characteristics of Learners
3. Individual Learning Differences
4. Instructional Strategies
5. Learning Environments and Social Interactions
6. Language
7. Instructional Planning
8. Assessment
9. Professional and Ethical Practice
10. Collaboration

http://www.cec.sped.org/Content/NavigationMenu/ProfessionalDevelopment/ProfessionalStandards/EthicsPracticeStandards/Professional_Standards_CEC_Performance_Based_Standards.htm#standards

Administration and Procedures

-Comps are administered each semester (three times per year) as per procedures and guidelines established by the UCF College of Education.

-Complete application available on-line through the CED Student Services:
http://education.ucf.edu/studentaffairs/forms.cfm#graduate

-Submit (either scanned to your advisor or Mary Little) for review, approvals, and signature by the candidate's advisor by the announced due date.

-Follow confirmation and directions from the CCIE Student Services-Graduate Program.

Administration of Exam

- Email sent confirming "official" email-week before.

- Masters Exam administered via email to "official" email by 9:00 a.m. on established date.

- Examination must be completed and returned by NOON the same day.

- Exams are all reviewed through Turnitin.com

- Submitted exams are read and reviewed by two faculty members.

- Notification through GPS audit to student.

Preparation for Exam

A Comprehensive Exam study guide is available on the UCF Advising website at:

https://ccie.ucf.edu/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2018/01/MastersCompExamStudyGuide.pdf

Content of Exam

- The advisor will select six questions for the comprehensive examination from a Test Pool of questions based upon the CEC Standards.

- The student must answer three of the six questions.

- Answer all parts of the questions.

- Citations are important. Be certain to include at least three current and accurate embedded citations per question. No references are required, however.

Criteria Demonstrated for "Pass"

Answers THREE questions from six provided accurately and completely that address the CEC standards.

Addresses all sections and questions within each question asked.

Original writing/synthesis of research throughout examination.

Includes at least THREE accurate and current within-text citations to support content of EACH questions selected (Little, 2019).

Professional writing demonstrated throughout essays.

UCF Golden Rule

All procedures in the UCF Golden Rule must be followed especially as related to plagiarism.

University protocol will be followed, as needed, to investigate and resolve any infractions against UCF Golden Rule.

■ https://goldenrule.sdes.ucf.edu/

After Exam is Completed

- Exam is reviewed by at least two faculty members in Exceptional Student Education using stated criteria.

- Results are sent to Dept. Chair for review/approvals; then sent to CCIE Student Services to alert students on Audits.

- If "Conditional Pass" and/or "Fail" is received, advisor will contact Graduate student for discussion of next steps.

Final Thoughts

Your writing on the Masters Comprehensive Exam is your opportunity to synthesize and demonstrate YOUR LEARNING as a teacher of students with disabilities through the Graduate Program! Review and know the leaders, the evidence-based practices, and resources in our profession! With dedicated review time, Graduate Students have found that they have learned so much as a leader themselves! BEST WISHES!

Contact Mary.Little@ucf.edu with questions!