

## **EDU 5950** **Comprehensive Exam**

2 credits (7 weeks)

(Effective for those who started the MEd Fall 2019 or later)

Course Description: As a comprehensive study of significant courses taken throughout the M.Ed. experience, students will be evaluated on their ability to analyze, critique, and apply core content knowledge in their graduate concentration area of study. At the beginning of the semester, students will collaborate with two assigned instructors with whom they have completed coursework. Students will meet with each chosen professor to discuss assigned curriculum with a theme focus to prepare for their comprehensive exam. After completing the written exam, students will meet with their instructors for an oral exam discussion.

Prerequisites: This is a capstone experience course and will be taken during the last semester of M.Ed. study. Students will be permitted to take one course concurrently with the Comprehensive Exam. Students will also be enrolled in EDU 5990 (0 cr) signifying that they will have met M.Ed. requirements after completing these course requirements.

This “course” will be facilitated and proctored by an Education Department professor. Registration will be completed by the Graduate Education Chair. Students, in conjunction with their primary advisor, will select two concentration-specific content courses that they have already completed and would like to delve into further. Course selections will **not** include the Masters CORE courses (EDU 5060, EDU 5240 and EDU 5250). Once two courses are approved by the exam course facilitator, the student will reach out to two prospective professors to enlist their assistance in the Comprehensive Exam. During the first week, students will collaborate with each professor to discuss the assigned curriculum with a theme focus to prepare for their comprehensive exam. During weeks 2-6 students will study independently. By the beginning of the final week, week 7, students will be contacted by the exam course facilitator for this experience and given instructions regarding the arranged, proctored location where they will write their answers to two questions provided by each professor. Students will be given up to three hours to complete the exam. The Comprehensive Exam professors will review the written exams of their respective students within 48 hours and provide students with feedback after they have completed a follow-up oral exam discussion with each professor and completed by midweek (of the 7<sup>th</sup> week of the term).

Note: A student who earns a failing grade on any question of the comprehensive exam will need to complete remedial actions as specified by the examination committee (the Graduate Chair, Graduate Advisor and Course Professor) by the end of the 7 week period. Such actions may include any of the following: further study; re-writing portions of the exam; or re-taking the entire exam in another 7 week period if the student is not able to pass. It is recommended that the student take the exam the first seven weeks in case the student may need to retake the course the second 7 weeks. This exam cannot be completed over J Term unless Graduate Chair permission is given.

**Carthage College Master of Education**  
**EDU 5950 Comprehensive Examination Rubric (2CR)**  
(See scoring information and notes on page 3.)

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Course: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Category	0-Unsatisfactory	1-Marginal	2-Satisfactory	3-Accomplished	Write the appropriate rating number
<b>Completeness of Answer</b>	Response demonstrates little understanding of the question. Basic information is missing and substantial parts of the question are not answered fully.	Response demonstrates basic understanding of the question. Some information is missing and parts of the question are not answered fully.	Response demonstrates adequate understanding of the question. Factual information is evident and all parts of the question are answered.	Response demonstrates thorough understanding of the question. The information presented includes a nuanced understanding of the question. Every part of the question is thoroughly addressed.	Question 1:  Question 2:
<b>Validity of Facts and Perspectives</b>	The majority of the facts, conclusions, and statements are incorrect and/or invalid.	Some of the facts, conclusions, and statements are incorrect and/or invalid.	All the facts, conclusions, and statements are correct and/or valid.	All facts, conclusions, and statements are correct and/or valid. The responses are logical and support the topic.	Question 1:  Question 2:
<b>Evidence of Background Knowledge and Integration of Theory and Practice</b>	No or very little integration of theory and practice is present. Very little evidence of higher order thinking skills (eg analyzing, evaluating, creating)	Integration of theory and practice is present, yet sometimes inadequate/weak. Some evidence of higher order thinking skills is evident.	Integration of theory and practice is present. At least two different higher-order thinking skills are clearly evident.	Integration of theory and practice is consistently present and strong. Use of several higher order thinking skills (applying, analyzing, evaluation, or creating) demonstrates depth and breadth of knowledge.	Question 1:  Question 2:
<b>References to Relevant Research</b>	References are not relevant or present.	Reference information is vague or relevant to the topic; several key issues or parts of the response are unsupported.	Reference information is evident and accurate for key issues or for parts of the response.	Consistently notes references that support all key issues resulting in a scholarly, thoughtful voice throughout the response.	Question 1:  Question 2:

Evaluator Comments:

Scoring Information:

1. Each evaluator assesses only the question/s they provided. Evaluators rate each criteria 0-3. Passing score for each criteria is a 2 or 3.
2. Cumulative scoring for each question: A Passing Score is 10-12. Scores of 9 or less will not pass.

Note: A student who earns a failing grade on any question of the comprehensive exam will need to complete remedial actions as specified by the examination committee (the Graduate Chair, Graduate Advisor and Course Professor) by the end of the semester. Such actions may include any of the following: further study; re-writing portions of the exam; **or re-taking the entire exam the next 7 week**

**period if the student is not able to pass.** Students must pass the exam within three attempts. It is recommended that the student take the exam the first seven weeks in case that the student may need to retake the course the second 7 weeks.

Reference: This evaluation rubric has been slightly modified and adopted from the following source-  
<https://mlc-wels.edu/graduate-studies/wp-content/uploads/sites/16/2016/01/NEW-Comprehensive-Examination-Rubric.pdf>