

Comprehensive Exam Information

*To Take the Comprehensive Examination
You MUST Register for Econ 298E
by the add deadline for the semester*

(Unless you were enrolled in 298E in a prior semester. Enroll in Econ 298E only ONCE).

HOW TO ENROLL: You can register online. After online registration, add codes are available from the Exam Coordinator. **Late Adds will NOT be permitted.**

WHEN: The comprehensive exam is offered once each semester. The exam is scheduled for the first Friday in December and the first Friday in May. Start studying NOW!

TIME: The exam starts at 6:00 p.m. and concludes at 9:30 p.m. on the date scheduled.

HOW OFTEN: You have a maximum of three attempts to pass the exam. Registering for the exam even if you are prepared to take only one section *may be prudent* if the material is fresh but this will still count as one of your attempts at the exam.

WHERE: The location is a room (TBA) in Dudley Morehead Hall. You will be notified by email by the instructor of the ECON 298e section in which you are enrolled prior to the exam date.

Make your plans accordingly. If you are unable to take the exam for any reason (illness, work, accidents) you will be expected to take the exam at the next regularly scheduled time.

PREPARING: As you go through courses you should be studying for the semester exams and preparing material for the comprehensive exams. Ask your professors questions about how a topic might be covered in a comprehensive exam question. Previous exam questions can be found on the department's webpage.

GRADING: Questions will be graded PASS—equivalent to A level work; MARGINAL PASS—equivalent to B level work; or FAIL. To complete the culminating experience requirement, you must receive at least an average score of Marginal Pass in each section.

RETAKING THE EXAM: The exam can be taken up to three times. If a student fails to pass the Comprehensive Exam after two attempts, they will be placed on departmental probation. If a student fails to pass the Comprehensive Exam after three attempts, they will be disqualified from the program. You may retake any section(s) of the exam at the next regularly scheduled exam period. Your grade for Econ 298E will be RP (report progress) until you pass all three sections. **Do not re-register for the course.**

WHAT TO BRING: Bring photo identification. You will need a pen. Calculators are not allowed. Paper will be provided. You will be given an exam code so that answers are graded anonymously.

EXAM CONTENT: On September 13, 2021 the Faculty of the Economics Department voted to change the format of the exam, starting in the 2022-2023 Academic Year. In order to ease the transition to the new format, the Comprehensive Exam will have a different format for the 2021-2022 Academic Year.

For the 2021-2022 Academic Year (for exams taking place on December 3, 2021 and May 6, 2022) **the Exam will have two sections.**

For the 2022-2023 Academic Year, and subsequent years (for exams taking place on December 2, 2022 and thereafter) **the Exam will have three sections.**

For the 2021-2022 Academic Year the exam will consist of the following two sections:

Section 1 — Microeconomic Theory

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS.

EACH QUESTION IS ONE-HALF HOUR IN DURATION.

CHOOSE FROM A SET OF THREE TO FOUR QUESTIONS.

QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED BY INSTRUCTORS FOR ECON 104, AND ECON 201.

Section 2 — Macroeconomics/Monetary Theory and Econometrics

ANSWER ONE QUESTION OF ONE-HOUR DURATION. CHOOSE

FROM A SET OF THREE TO FOUR QUESTIONS.

QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED BY INSTRUCTORS FOR ECON 202, 235, AND ECON 203a.

For the 2022-2023 Academic Year, and subsequent years, the exam will consist of the following three sections:

Section 1 — Microeconomic Theory

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS.

EACH QUESTION IS ONE-HALF HOUR IN DURATION.

CHOOSE FROM A SET OF TWO TO THREE QUESTIONS.

QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED BY INSTRUCTORS FOR ECON 104, AND ECON 201.

Section 2 — Macroeconomics/Monetary Theory

ANSWER ONE QUESTION OF ONE-HOUR DURATION. CHOOSE

FROM A SET OF TWO TO THREE QUESTIONS.

QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED BY INSTRUCTORS FOR ECON 202 and 235.

Section 3 — Econometrics

ANSWER ONE QUESTION OF ONE-HOUR DURATION. CHOOSE

FROM A SET OF ONE TO TWO QUESTIONS.

QUESTIONS ARE PROVIDED BY INSTRUCTORS FOR ECON 203a.

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. What happens if I don't pass one of the sections?

At the next regularly scheduled exam time, retake only the section(s) you missed or failed. Here is a clear example of how a student can fail one section of the test. Suppose a student takes the exam on May 5, 2017 for the first time. The student has filed for candidacy. The exam is the last hurdle.

The score for Section 1 is a Pass on one question and Fail on the other.
The student passes Section I with a Marginal Pass average.

The score for Section 2 is a Marginal Pass on the one question.
The student passes Section II with a Marginal Pass average.

The score for Section 3 is a Marginal Pass on one question and a Fail on the other.
The student fails Section 3 and must retake *just* Section 3 at the next regularly scheduled exam.

The student receives a grade of RP (Report Progress) in Econ 298E. A grade change form will be submitted to change the RP to CR when the test is successfully completed.

2. How do I go about registering to retake sections of the exam in the following semester?

- If you have finished your coursework, you need to maintain continuous enrollment;
- Do **not** re-enroll in Econ 298E;
- Notify in writing, the Exam Coordinator or Graduate Advisor that you plan to take the exam;
- Show up at the exam date and time (always bring a photo identification);
- Take just the relevant section or sections.

If you pass on the second or third attempt but are no longer enrolled in any classes, you must maintain continuous enrollment between completion of regular courses and satisfactory completion of the culminating experience. Enrollment must be maintained in each Fall and Spring semester until degree completion. Graduate students may maintain enrollment by registering for a 1-unit 1290R course or by registering for other courses.

3. I am a foreign student. After my last semester of course work, I will have to return to my native country. What do I do if I don't pass the exam?

You must take responsibility for complying with the rules and expectations for the degree subject to your personal constraints.

(Revised September 13, 2021)