

# 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. Free parking is available after 6 p.m. at the garage on Fourth and San Fernando.

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. Room will be posted outside the Department Office.

*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.

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. *Note bene:* Professors have high expectations. A grading system where answers are coded and where professors are only responsible for grading their question(s) makes it easy for professors to fail answers where it looks like a student just “gave the problem a try.” Hence, you should use your time wisely.

RETAKE THE EXAM: The exam can be taken up to three times. 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.**

EXAM CONTENT: The exam consists of three 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 203.

## **Section 3 — Field Questions.**

ANSWER TWO QUESTIONS.

EACH QUESTION IS ONE-HALF HOUR IN DURATION.

QUESTIONS ARE DEVELOPED AND GRADED BY INSTRUCTORS IN THE DEPARTMENT.

CHOOSE FROM A SET OF REGULAR AND REQUESTED QUESTIONS.

REGULAR QUESTIONS: EXPECT ONE QUESTION COVERING CONCEPTS IN EACH OF THE FOLLOWING REGULARLY SCHEDULED COURSES: ECON 132 OR 232, ECON 121 OR 221, AND ECON 112 OR 212.

REQUESTED QUESTIONS: ECON 298E STUDENTS CAN REQUEST THAT QUESTIONS BE OFFERED FOR ANY OTHER GRADUATE OR UNDERGRADUATE ELECTIVES ECONOMICS COURSE EXCEPT ECON 203A, ECON 205, ECON 135, ECON 136, ECON 137A, ECON 137B, ECON 108, ECON 109.

REQUESTS CAN ONLY BE HONORED IF THEY ARE SUBMITTED IN WRITING TO THE EXAM COORDINATOR AT LEAST ONE MONTH BEFORE THE EXAM DATE. *One subject request per student.*

**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.

## **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, then do **not** enroll for any classes;
- 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, then you need to file a form to ask the University to **reactivate** your file to post a successful completion of the culminating requirement for a master's degree. You will also need to file a change of graduation date form.

**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. The only condition for taking the written exam is that you file for candidacy. If you are risk adverse due to travel plans, then you can file for candidacy in the semester *before* your last semester. If your last semester is Spring 2018, then file for candidacy in Fall 2017 (or even earlier), take the exam in the Fall and if you miss a section(s) you still have one more semester, Spring 2018 to retake the section.

(Revised March 2017)