



The Comprehensive Examination Results

One of the central indicators of student learning in the program is the comprehensive examination required for completion of the MSLIS degree. The format of the comprehensive examination is a take-home research paper format. The purpose of writing a paper is to have students demonstrate knowledge of the philosophy, history, social roles, and major challenges of the profession, including applications of technology, organization of resources, provision of services, and management of libraries and other information agencies. They must demonstrate knowledge of current practices and issues, the ability to monitor and deal with changes, and the ability to apply research findings. The comprehensive examination is offered three times a year.

The faculty analyze the results of the comprehensive examination each semester to evaluate the extent to which the students in the MSLIS program demonstrate mastery of knowledge. Table 1 below shows the comprehensive examination pass rate. Table 2 further presents details of mean scores of each trait based on a rubric.

Table 1. *Comprehensive Examination Pass/Fail Results per semester*

Semester	# of students taking	# of students failed	Mean scores (12 points meeting the expectation)	Details
Fall 2019	5	0	14.25	80% of students (N=4) with scores \geq 12 points 20% of students (N=1) with scores $<$ 12 points
Spring 2020	14	0	15.5	92.86% of students (N=13) with scores \geq 12 points 7.14% of students (N=1) with scores $<$ 12 points
Summer 2020	12	2	13	58.3% of students (N=7) with scores \geq 12 points 41.7% of students (N=5) with scores $<$ 12 points
Fall 2020	10	1	12.8	60% of students (N=6) with scores \geq 12 points 40% of students (N=4) with scores $<$ 12 points

Spring 2021	18	1	14.2	83.3% of students (N=15) with scores ≥ 12 points 16.7% of students (N=3) with scores < 12 points
Summer 2021	13	1	14.06	84.6% of students (N=11) with scores ≥ 12 points 15.4% of students (N=2) with scores < 12 points
Fall 2021	9	1	14.31	88.9% of students (N=8) with scores ≥ 12 points 11.1% of students (N=1) with scores < 12 points
Spring 2022	12	1	14.5	83.3% of students (N=10) with scores ≥ 12 points 16.7% of students (N=2) with scores < 12 points
Summer 2022	8	0	15.5	100% of students (N=8) with scores ≥ 12 points
Fall 2022	13	0	13.7	92.3% of students (N=12) with scores ≥ 12 points 7.7% of students (N=1) with scores < 12 points
Spring 2023	9	1	15.11	88.9% of students (N=8) with scores ≥ 12 points 11.1% of students (N=1) with scores < 12 points
Summer 2023	7	0	12.86	85.7% of students (N=6) with scores ≥ 12 points 14.3% of students (N=1) with scores < 12 points
Fall 2023	9	0	14.44	88.9% of students (N=8) with scores ≥ 12 points 11.1% of students (N=1) with scores < 12 points
Spring 2024	7	0	15.43	100% of students (N=7) with scores ≥ 12 points
Summer 2024	6	0	15.83	100% of students (N=6) with scores ≥ 12 points
Fall 2024	5	0	15.50	100% of students (N=5) with scores ≥ 12 points
Spring 2025	8	0	15.13	100% of students (N=8) with scores ≥ 12 points
Summer 2025	13	1	15.54	92.3% of students (N=12) with scores ≥ 12 points
Fall 2025	10	0	15.50	90% of students (N=9) with scores ≥ 12 points

Table 2. Means of each rubric trait and total scores

	Demonstrated understanding of relevant information, principles and concepts	Demonstrated ability to apply relevant theories, principles and concepts appropriately in response to the question	Demonstrated ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate relevant principles in response to the question	Ability to locate and retrieve relevant, appropriate, and authoritative information	Ability to analyze and synthesize the information found	Ability to communicate clearly and effectively in writing, with use of graphical elements if appropriate
Fall 19	2.4	2.4	2.2	2.4	2.4	2.4
Spring 20	2.64	2.71	2.57	2.5	2.36	2.71
Summer 20	2.27	2.14	1.95	2.27	2.05	2.23
Fall 20	2.4	2.1	1.9	2.2	2.2	2
Spring 21	2.5	2.2	2.1	2.6	2.5	2.3
Summer 21	2.46	2.46	2.15	2.15	2.38	2.46
Fall 21	2.33	2.22	2.55	2.33	2.55	2.33
Spring 22	2.5	2.33	2.33	2.67	2.25	2.42
Summer 22	2.88	2.5	2.38	2.75	2.38	2.63
Fall 22	2.3	2.5	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.6
Spring 23	2.78	2.33	2.67	2.22	2.56	2.56
Summer 23	2.43	2.14	2.00	2.43	2.43	2.29
Fall 23	2.22	2.78	2.33	2.33	2.56	2.22
Spring 24	2.86	2.57	2.29	2.71	2.57	2.29
Summer 24	3.00	3.00	2.67	2.17	2.83	2.17
Fall 24	3.00	2.34	2.56	2.80	2.30	2.50
Spring 25	3.00	2.44	2.50	2.63	2.50	2.31
Summer 25	2.92	2.38	2.54	2.69	2.50	2.50
Fall 25	2.65	2.40	2.55	2.70	2.50	2.70

(Note: The faculty developed the rubric for scoring the comprehensive examination to determine how well students could demonstrate their learning outcomes in the six areas, using a 3-point scale: 3 = exceeding expectations, 2 = meeting expectations, and 1 = failure to meet expectations. The rubric is intended for the program-level use in evaluating and discussing student learning; a separate decision is made by the faculty on whether a student passes or fails the examination.)