

Grading Comprehensive Examination Essay

In grading the exam, faculty members look for the understanding of core concepts, adequate knowledge of facts, and application of principles and problem-solving skills in the library and information science field and profession.

Faculty members will evaluate the essay using the rubric below. Although faculty evaluate the essay with the rubric, the goal is to reach a holistic judgment regarding the piece of work. The essay will receive “pass” or “fail.”

LIS Comprehensive Examination Essay Rubric

Criterion	Fails to Meet Expectations (1)	Meets Expectations (2)	Exceeds Expectations (3)
Demonstrates an understanding of relevant information, principles and concepts	Demonstrates an unsatisfactory knowledge and understanding of required courses and the issue(s)/problem(s) raised in the question. There are major inconsistencies and/or inaccuracies; overall knowledge is unsatisfactory. Fails to provide solutions or provides impractical solutions to, opinions about, or analyses of the issue(s)/problem(s) raised in the question	Demonstrates a satisfactory knowledge and understanding of required courses in regard to the issue(s)/problem(s) raised in the question. There may be minor inconsistencies and/or inaccuracies; however, overall knowledge is satisfactory. Provides basic but practical solutions to, opinions about, and/or analyses of the issue(s)/problem(s) raised in the question	Demonstrates a superior knowledge and understanding of required courses in regard to the issue(s)/problem(s) raised in the question, in a broader LIS context. Provides thoughtful and detailed solutions, opinions, and/or analyses.
Demonstrates the ability to apply relevant theories, principles and concepts appropriately in response to the question	Demonstrates an inappropriate application of theoretical and/or professional principles and concepts to the question. Fails to apply any theoretical and/or professional principles to the question.	Demonstrates a satisfactory application of the appropriate theoretical and/or professional principles and concepts to the question. Some connections may be unclear or inappropriate, but an overall application is satisfactory	Demonstrates a superior application of the appropriate theoretical and/or professional principle(s) and concepts to the question
Demonstrated the ability to analyze, synthesize, and evaluate relevant principles in response to the question	Does not provide a sufficient synthesis or analysis of ideas. Conclusions do not adequately support the ideas raised in the question	Demonstrates the satisfactory ability to analyze, synthesize and evaluate critical and relevant information. May or may not demonstrate an understanding of theoretical and/or professional principles in a broader LIS context	Demonstrates the superior ability to analyze, synthesize and evaluate critical, relevant, and consistent connections from theory to practice

Demonstrates the ability to locate and retrieve relevant, appropriate, and authoritative information	Demonstrates an inadequate integration of information literacy skills and use of primary and secondary sources and citations. Fails to utilize literature to support/strengthen discussion. References are incomplete, and there are significant errors while using APA	Demonstrates adequate evidence of broad information literacy skills, including a variety of primary and secondary sources. In most cases, the student integrates relevant research, demonstrates an understanding thereof, and uses it appropriately (quantitative evidence, quotations etc.). Cites a sufficient number of sources correctly. Complete and correctly formatted references using APA are provided. There may be instances of minor inaccuracies in citation and in an application of the sources.	Successfully integrates information literacy skills, demonstrates a superior understanding of research, and uses it appropriately (quantitative evidence, quotations etc.) Uses a variety of appropriate primary and secondary sources, showing different perspectives. Complete and correctly formatted references using APA are provided.
Demonstrates the ability to analyze and synthesize the information found	Does not provide sufficient synthesis or analysis of ideas based on the information located. Conclusions do not adequately support ideas.	Provides conclusions that show adequate analysis and synthesis of ideas and information. Some of the conclusions are not grounded in the literature review or other information sources	Provides succinct and precise conclusions that show a superior analysis and synthesis of ideas based on the information included in the literature review to other sources
Demonstrates the ability to communicate clearly and effectively in writing, with the use of graphical elements, if appropriate	Is poorly organized and lacks focus/clarity. Difficult to follow. Fails to demonstrate satisfactory written communication skills	Is satisfactorily organized and intelligible overall, although there may be minor issues with the flow and/or organization. Demonstrates satisfactory to good written communication skills	Is well organized and flows logically. The answer is clearly written, easy to understand, and demonstrates superior written communication skills