

Counselling Psychology Doctoral Program Comprehensive Examination Grading Rubric**Student:** _____**Evaluator:** _____

	Fail	Pass	Pass with Distinction
APA style (e.g., format, grammar, spelling)	No consideration of APA style	Adequate APA style; few errors	Perfect style
Sophistication of writing (clear thesis statement and coherent narrative)	Disjointed and convoluted	Proficient: clear and concise, adheres to thesis statement	Expert: clear, concise, very strong argument
Identification and description of relevant theoretical and empirical literature (accurate and comprehensive summary of literature)	Unclear description/ Insufficient identification of literature	Clear description/ Adequate identification of literature	Expert description/ comprehensive identification of literature (constructs, methods, and findings are clear)
Synthesis of theoretical and empirical literature (integration of multiple studies to further rationale)	Inadequate synthesis	Adequate synthesis: relationships are apparent	Expert synthesis: sophisticated discussion of relationships
Critique (identification of contradictions, gaps, and inconsistencies)	Inadequate critique	Proficient critique	Expert critique
Implications for research and practice (e.g., identification of areas for further study; articulation of potential research questions)	No implications presented or implications are not related to the literature; failed to address both research and practice	Implications are proficient in drawing upon the literature; implications have some practicality	Implications are derived expertly from the synthesis and critique; implications are practical and explicit

- Both readers must give passing scores in all categories to be considered a passing grade.
- A failing score in any category will result in a failing grade. If the two readers both give a failing grade, then the candidate is provided feedback and she or he has 4 weeks to revise and resubmit the paper.
- If the two readers disagree on whether the paper should receive a passing grade, then the third reader will be asked to review the paper. If the third reviewer gives a passing grade (i.e., scores of pass or pass with distinction in all categories), then the candidate passes her or his comprehensive examination based on the majority rule. If the third reader gives a failing grade in any category, then feedback is provided to the candidate who then has 4 weeks to revise it and resubmit.