

MS Technology Management

Comprehensive Examination FAQ's

11 March 2008

What is a comprehensive examination? It is written examination that serves as the capstone experience for the MS Technology Management degree.

Why would I elect to take the comprehensive exam? The comprehensive exam is the preferred option for students who cannot do or are not interested in doing an applied research project (IT595) or a MS thesis (IT599). Full-time students often select the MS thesis option. Students that elect to take the comprehensive exam must take one additional 3-credit course.

When can I take the comprehensive exam? After you have completed 24-27 credits. You must have a minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0.

How many questions are there? There are 10 questions, from which you will select three to answer. Most of the questions will come from core courses. Some will be from electives you have taken.

What types of questions can I expect? The questions are conceptual in nature, not computational. You should answer only those questions for which you have taken the course.

How are the questions answered? They are answered in essay form, allowing you to demonstrate your abilities to write in full sentences and paragraphs, and with proper punctuation.

When is it offered and how long is the exam? One Saturday each semester. It is 3 hours in duration.

Where is the comprehensive exam administered? In a laboratory classroom in Copernicus Hall. You can use a computer to do word processing instead of writing the essay long-hand if you wish.

How is the exam graded? It is graded pass/fail.

When will I be notified of my grade? You will be notified within 2-4 weeks.

What happens if I do not pass the exam? You re-apply to take the exam again the following semester. You may be required to take additional coursework after the first or second re-try. If you fail the exam one more time, then you may be dismissed from the graduate program or seek permission from the department chair to choose another capstone option.

How should I prepare for the comprehensive examination? One approach would be to spend a 2-3 days reviewing the textbook, course notes, reading assignments, tests, projects, etc., from each course you have taken. You should make sure that you are familiar with key concepts, definitions, etc. Thus, you would spend anywhere from two to four weeks preparing for the comprehensive exam.

What forms do I need to fill out? You need to fill out an application by 1 October (fall semester) or 15 February (spring semester): www.ccsu.edu/grad/Footer/Forms/COMP%20EXAM%20APPLICATION.pdf.

Who do I submit the form to? The Graduate Studies Office, Barnard Hall. Please provide a photocopy of the form to Dr. Segun Odesina, Associate Dean, School of Technology, odesina@ccsu.edu, 860.832.1833

Is there a fee to take the exam? No. But there is a fee if you take the exam during a semester in which you are not registered to take any academic courses.