

Grading Comprehensive Examination Essay

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

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

LIS Comprehensive Examination Essay Rubric

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

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