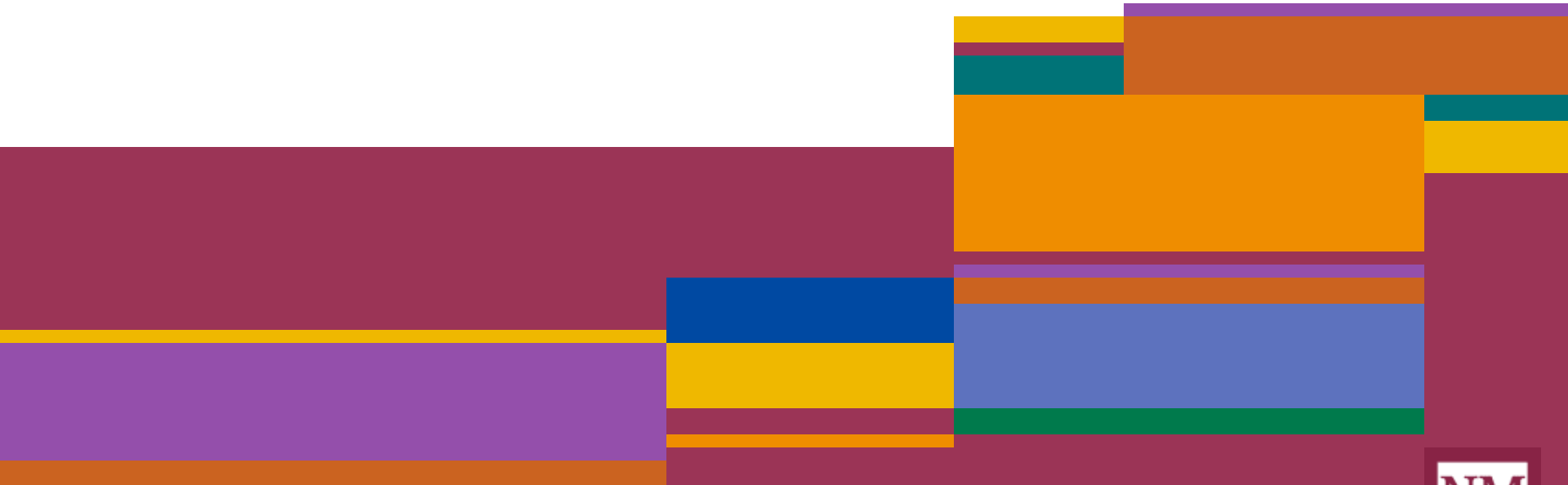


College of Education Department of Curriculum & Instruction

MA EXAM STUDY SESSION



Policies regarding the MA Comprehensive Written Examination

- When can I take the exam?

You may take the exam during your last semester of MA classes. If you are an MA and licensure student, you may take the exam prior to student teaching.

- Do I need to sign-up for the exam before I take it?

Yes!

Program of Study

- Completed and approved before taking the exam. Provided to Administrative Assistant of Graduate programs in the C&I office. 575.646-2290

About the MA Exam Questions

What questions will I get?...

- The three main components of the Master's Exam are intended to encourage you, as an MA Candidate in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, to demonstrate how you have strived to be Reflective, Theoretical, and Professional. All three components require you to provide insights into: Your professional growth; What you will do to engage within your professional environment; and How the faculty, readings, and research activities have informed your professional life.

Section 1 Dispositions

- GOAL: The MA Candidate will reflect on their personal and professional disposition development.
- **Section 1 Dispositions** – Review the Dispositions form and reflect on your evolution from entry into the MA program in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction to the present (give a historical perspective). Tell us which of the Disposition(s) has influenced you as a professional and what it means to engage in curriculum and instruction. Specifically, how did the concepts presented in the Disposition(s) contribute to your current beliefs, position, and practices. Include citations and examples.

Section 2 General Question

- GOAL: The MA Candidate will demonstrate knowledge and application of C&I core course content.
- **Section 2 General Question** – Select three (3) of the following topics: classroom management, standards, content, community, teaching approaches, strategies, assessment, diversity, technology, and accountability. Support how you have come to apply the concepts of social justice, critical MCE, and equity as they relate to each of the topics you have selected. Identify the theories in curriculum and instruction that you are drawing from to support your answer. Include citations and examples.

Section 3 Content Specific Question

- GOAL: The MA Candidate will identify and respond as a professional to challenges in the field. Specifically, if you are in a concentration or pursuing a minor this will be your content topic.
- **Section 3 Content Specific Question** – The demands of education are such that an MA Candidate be reflective, informed, and resourceful. Your topic or challenge facing the field of education based on your content topic. The identification of the topic of challenge can be broad within education or specific to content in your professional space. What do the historical, political, socio-cultural perspectives say about this topic? Connect this information to the implications of the topic for its constituents. Then present three commitments to action you will make as a professional educator based on the new knowledge you acquired in the MA program. Include citations and examples.

Minor etc.

- **Section 3 MAT+ (Spanish, Dance, etc.)** – 3rd question as required by that Department.

Tips to being successful on the MA Exam

Starting now...

- Revisit course syllabus objectives, required readings, learning tasks, and assignments turned in Attention to core courses: EDUC 515, EDUC 516, EDUC 517/520, EDUC 518 & EDUC 519
- Reflect on applications of these key ideas in real world educational contexts

Tips to being successful on the MA Exam

Starting now...

- Identify the relationships among key theorists, philosophers, concepts, and terms in various courses
- Find other MA candidates in your area of specialty to compare notes and study for the exam

Tips to being successful on the MA Exam

Starting now...

- Get to campus or your test site early so you can find parking
- It is okay to bring a bottle of water or simple snacks
 - Bring tissues if you think you might need them
 - You may not bring any paper, notes, etc. with you
 - Bring registration receipt provided by the C&I Department
 - You will be given the examination packet

Tips to being successful on the MA Exam

Starting now...

- You may sit where you would like
- You will be provided an overview of the process.
Review of Lab procedures (eg. Printing)
- The end time will be posted

Tips to being successful on the MA Exam

Starting now...

- You have four hours to answer the three questions
 - Plan your time carefully; for creating an outline
 - for writing each question
 - for review and revision
 - for polishing your essay
 - *make sure you answered the questions fully & clearly!*

Tips to being successful on the MA Exam

Starting now...

- Expectation: *at least* 4 citations per answer remember, this is a “Masters” degree—you are a scholar
- APA-style: Author & year direct quotes need page number
- Use your bibliography sheet for clear and concise referencing your work.

How is the MA Exam graded and who grades the exam?

- MA Rubric review (pdf MA Rubric)
- Each exam question is graded by two C&I faculty members
- Minor questions solicited from another department are read by that department's faculty, once
- If there is a 10 point or greater difference in the scores of the two reviewers, the question is read a third time by a different reviewer. The two closest scores are counted; the “outlying score” is discarded.

How is the MA Exam graded and who grades the exam?

- The total possible point value is 36 points per question (two readings for three questions = 216) – with a passing score of 27 or higher per question the minimum passing score or better is 162.
- For those with a minor ($36 \times 5 = 180$) with a passing score of 150.
- A 0 is given if you do not attempt to answer a question

For Further Information

- Contact C&I Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies at OH 122E or voice 575.646.5411 or email your advisor.
- GOOD LUCK TO YOU!!