

Policy on MA ECON Comprehensive Examination

Eligibility

Economics MA students who choose the comprehensive examination should expect to take the exam during their last semester in the program. The following requirements must be satisfied to register for the exam (BUS 5960):

- The student must have satisfied the Graduate Writing Assessment Requirement
- The student must have been “Advanced to Candidacy” (G3)
- The student must have a cumulative GPA of 3.0 (B) or higher in the program with no grades below C
- The student must have no outstanding “Incomplete” (I) grades
- The student must not be on academic/disciplinary probation

Exam Requirements

To receive “Credit” (CR) for BUS 5960, students are required to pass a written exam in Microeconomics and a written exam in Macroeconomics. Students should take the two written exams together on campus on the same day. Students taking BUS 5960 must concurrently enroll in or have completed the co-requisite ECON 5910.

Registration

Students must register for BUS 5960 by the add deadline in each semester to participate in the comprehensive exam. Once enrolled, a confirmation letter from the College will be sent to the student with the date, time, and location of the written exam. Students are also encouraged to meet with the department advisor to learn more about the exam.

Preparation

Since the written exam covers both microeconomics and macroeconomics which are typically taught by different instructors, the student is individually responsible for obtaining information on how to prepare for the test.

Offerings

The comprehensive exam (BUS 5960) is offered once every semester. The exam dates are posted on the CBE website. The exam is administered in a four hour session in a computer classroom in Salazar Hall.

Evaluation and Records

Department faculty who wrote the exam questions will be responsible for evaluating students’ work. “Pass/Fail” grades will be assigned individually for the exams on Microeconomics and Macroeconomics. Students must receive a “Pass” in both exams to pass the comprehensive exam and receive “Credit” (CR) for BUS 5960. Students will be able to view their CR/NC grades for BUS 5960 through GET at the end of the semester. After being graded, students’ exams will be kept by the Department for one year.

Appeals

A student may appeal any aspect of the examining procedure and grade. Such an appeal should be made to the Director of Graduate Studies, who is charged with exploring the matter. Such appeals should be submitted promptly after the exam; appeals filed beyond two weeks after the exam date will in normal circumstances not be accepted.

Reexamination

Students are allowed a maximum of three attempts to complete the comprehensive examination requirements.