



# Revising Comprehensive Exams in the MPA Program

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# Rationale & Implementation

## ▶ Rationale

- ▶ Online MPA created an opportunity for us to revisit our comprehensive exam into a format that would be identical for campus and online students.
- ▶ Faculty discussion in April 2013.

## ▶ Implementation

- ▶ Refocused the exam questions on Knowledge (of theories and concepts), Skills (to apply theories and concepts to examples), and Abilities (to evaluate a proposal/idea related to the theme of the question).
- ▶ Exam administered through Blackboard three times annually.
- ▶ Students select 2 out of 3 questions.
- ▶ Students may use texts and notes.
- ▶ Revised comprehensive exam guidelines.
- ▶ Continued clarification on grading policies.

# Suggestions and Recommendations

- ▶ Thinking through the objective of the exam is critical.
- ▶ Full faculty engagement is key.
- ▶ Clarity on guidelines and grading is essential.