

About the Process for Developing your Comprehensive/Qualifying Examination Questions and Related Scheduling

Developing your questions:

When you and your committee chair agree that you are ready to move toward writing your qualifying or comprehensive examinations (papers), the first step in that process is developing your examination questions—these are not exactly questions (i.e., with a question mark), rather they are question or inquiry areas (see: [Example Questions](#)).

Typically you will have a specialization question (related to CSIEME writ large), a cognate (or sub-specialization) question, and an inquiry or research question (could also be considered a sub-sub-specialization question)—the idea being for you to move from the broad to the specific in illustrating your depth and breadth of knowledge about, and ability to conduct research in, the CSIEME content area generally, and then more specifically related to your specific study interest(s) within the CSIEME content area, including what you might decide to focus on for your dissertation study (see: [Example Papers](#)).

Timeline:

On your own, you will create a first draft of your questions, then you will share your draft questions with your committee chair and you and your chair will negotiate them back and forth until you are both more or less comfortable with a second (usually near final) draft of them. Then your chair will share the near final draft questions with committee members via email to garner feedback on/additional edits of them until a final draft of the questions is agreed upon by you and your entire committee.

Usually your committee chair will combine, in a single email to the rest of your committee (also cced to you):

- 1) the request for committee member feedback on/additional editing of, your near final draft questions feedback/additional editing request;
- 2) information about when (the specific 30-day period) during which you would like to write your question responses (examination papers);
- 3) when the committee will receive your completed papers (the specific date) and when they need to have them read (the specific 10 working day period); and,
- 4) when your chair would like to schedule your oral defense of your completed papers (specific date and time options).

Through back and forth email exchanges, the questions are finalized, the writing/reading timelines are agreed upon, and the date and time for the oral defense of the completed papers is set.