

Reflective Questions Benchmark Progression

Academic Program Benchmarks

Comprehensive/Qualifying Exams and Oral Defense

1. How do I determine if I am “ready” for my comprehensive/qualifying exams?
2. How does my chair/committee determine if I am “ready” for my comprehensive/qualifying exams?
3. What are the overarching expectations for the exam that I should consider during my writing time and in preparation for the defense?
4. What are the rules around getting help/support while writing and in preparing to defend?

IRB/Proposal and Oral Defense

1. What are common challenges to getting IRB approval at UNLV? at CCSD?
2. What are strategies for mitigating IRB approval challenges?
3. What task should I be prepared to complete in preparing my proposal and for the defense of it?
4. How do I best utilize my chair/committee while preparing my proposal and for my defense?

Dissertation and Oral Defense

1. How do I best utilize my chair/committee during my dissertation writing phase? in preparing for my oral defense?
2. What challenges might I face while writing my dissertation?
3. How might I best overcome these challenges?
4. What are good/durable practices for successfully completing my dissertation?

Research and Publication: Establishing a Research Agenda

1. Ideally, in considering conducting and publishing research in order to make oneself marketable, what is reasonable for the *average* doctoral student? (keeping in mind that some doctoral students can do more, and others not as much (i.e., given personality differences, competing demands on time, language/writing skills, etc.; remember, getting the doctorate complete is *most* important).
2. On any given doctoral completion timeline (e.g., four years, five years, etc.), ideally, how often should a doctoral student try to engage in research and publication? (i.e., once a year, twice a year, etc.; ditto the caveats mentioned above in #1).
3. What if I am not interested in a faculty position, or even in a research-oriented position, how might research and/or a research agenda benefit me personally and/or be adapted for my benefit in securing a job in another arena?

Life After Graduation

Research and Publication: Refining a Research Agenda

1. How many publications and what types of publication can make me more marketable?
2. How can I ensure my research agenda aligns with local or national interest?

Vita/Cover Letter

1. How is a vita (technically, vitae is singular, but vita is more commonly used) different from a résumé?

2. What is the best way to organize a vita? why?
3. What are key features to include, build up, highlight, emphasize in a vita? a cover letter? why?
4. How might I prepare *my materials* differently, for different kinds of positions (e.g., tenure-track faculty positions, non-tenure-track faculty positions, research positions, other kinds of teaching positions, higher education staff positions, non-profit positions, governmental positions, positions of any kind in international contexts)?

Interviewing, Job Talks (for Research, Teaching, and other kinds of jobs)

1. How might I prepare *myself* differently, for different kinds of positions (e.g., tenure-track faculty positions, non-tenure-track faculty positions, research positions, other kinds of teaching positions, higher education staff positions, non-profit positions, governmental positions, positions of any kind in international contexts)?
2. How can I learn about the unique features of similar places of employment (e.g., community colleges, four year institutions, universities, teaching colleges, etc.)?
3. What are key strategies for preparing to effectively/successfully execute phone interviews, campus interviews, job talks (teaching and research)?

Negotiating a Hire

1. What can I and/or should I negotiate for during a hiring process? how should I go about negotiating for the things I can?
2. What can occur during a hiring process that should give me cause for concern? why? how should I respond?