

# E&C Comprehensive Exam Guidelines

**PRE-REQ:** Students can choose the comprehensive exam option instead of a thesis project. Students choosing this option are required to take, in addition to EC 691 (3 units), two additional graduate seminars (three units each). These nine units substitute for the six thesis/project units (EC 690) and three field research units (EC 695) and maintain the required 36 units for the degree program.

## SPRING OR FALL SEMESTER BEFORE FINAL SEMESTER

### STEP 01

Select a Committee & Committee Chair

### STEP 02

Work with Committee Chair to identify a suitable case study around which the exam questions will be organized.

*Together the chair and the student will develop the case study and identify suitable bibliographic and other resources about the case study that the student will use to prepare for the exam.*

### STEP 03

Advance to Candidacy

## FINAL SEMESTER

### STEP 04

Enroll in EC 691: Comprehensive Exam

*In consultation with the other committee members, chair will prepare suitable questions. At least one question will focus on the relevant analytical frameworks and literature review. A second question will concern epistemology, methodology and research methods. Other questions will be developed that focus on key aspects of the case study. No more than eight questions will be on the exam.*

### STEP 05

Questions provided to student in Week 10 of Semester of Graduation.

*Student will have four weeks to prepare written answers to the questions. The total length of answers to all the questions should not exceed 40-50 double spaced pages.*

### STEP 06

Oral exam will take place during Week 14 of the semester.

*Committee members evaluate and score written and oral components.*