Comprehensive examinations. The comprehensive examinations for admission to candidacy for the PhD consist of a four-hour written examination in each of three fields of history offered by the candidate, each administered by a committee of two or more professors representing the respective field. An oral examination will be administered subsequently by a committee consisting of not less than five professors who administered the written examinations. The comprehensive examinations are to be completed in a two-week period, with the written exams given the first week and the oral exam given the following week. The exam schedule must allow at least five days between the last written exam and the date of the oral exam. The written and oral exams in each field are considered a unit, which the student will pass or fail as a whole. Two negative votes constitute failure. A minimum of six months must elapse before the student may repeat a failed examination, the time of which will be set by the examining committee. A student is permitted to repeat a failed examination one time only.

Dissertation. Dissertations are to be based upon research in history and make an original contribution to knowledge. Each doctoral student will select and obtain approval for a dissertation topic before scheduling his or her comprehensive examinations. Students will select dissertation topics in consultation with their advisors. After the topic has been agreed upon, the student will prepare a prospectus describing the topic and the proposed plan of approach, including the principal sources to be pursued.

Copies of the prospectus will be distributed to the members of the student’s comprehensive exam committee in advance of the oral examination. The prospectus is accepted or rejected at the time of the oral comprehensive examination.

The Graduate School requires each student admitted to candidacy for the PhD to pursue completion of the dissertation without interruption by enrolling each semester in HY 699 for at least 3 credit hours. The student must register for a total of at least 24 hours of dissertation research.

Final oral examination. The candidate must pass an oral examination on the dissertation and the field of the dissertation in accordance with the rules of the Graduate School. The examination committee consists of the three professors who served as readers on the dissertation, plus at least one additional history professor and a representative of an outside department. Two negative votes constitute failure of the examination, which the student may repeat one time only, after an interval specified by the examining committee.

Source: Graduate Catalog, Sec. 6.12