

TESOL-Linguistics Comprehensive Exam Information

Studying for the Comprehensive Exam: Begin preparing for the examination early in your graduate program. Preparation for the examination will supplement rather than replicate coursework. In other words, exam preparation involves independent study.

Developing and Getting Approval for Lists of Questions: Consult with Dr. Tina Biava to compile two lists of questions—one for linguistics and one for TESOL—from the standard lists of questions in these fields. Your lists must be approved by Dr. Biava. (If you intend to take the test in the fall, then contact Dr. Biava no later than August 1; if you intend to take the test in the spring, then contact her no later than Dec. 1.)

Application To Take Exam: The ENG Graduate Calendar indicates the date by which you must apply to take exams in a given semester. (In the fall and spring, this date is usually the first Friday of the semester; the application date for the summer exam is usually the final Friday of the previous semester.) To be eligible to take exams, you must submit the following to the Graduate Director by the relevant deadline:

- the “Comprehensive Examination Application/Results Form” (http://graduate.missouristate.edu/assets/graduate/Comprehensive_Exam_Form.pdf) and
- your lists of questions.

Dr. Biava will email the Graduate Director to indicate her approval of your lists of questions.

A Final Step before the Exam: The Graduate Director will review your application and lists of questions, asking for assistance from graduate faculty if necessary. From each of the two lists, three questions will be chosen. These six questions will be sent to you at least two weeks before the exam. (But you should not wait until you receive the study questions to begin studying; you should plan answers to all of the questions that you submitted with the initial application.)

Exam Day: The exam will take place in a campus computer lab and begin at 9:00 a.m. Exam dates are indicated in the ENG Graduate Calendar. (In the fall, the exam date is usually the Friday after Fall Break; in the spring, the date is usually the Friday after Spring Break; and, in the summer, the date is usually the first Friday of the semester.) On the day of your exam, you will be given one question (randomly chosen by the Graduate Director) from each of your lists. You will have two hours to write each answer.

You may write essays in longhand or on a computer. You may not use books or notes during the exam, and you may not access any information from the computer, the internet, or a disk.

Exam Evaluation: Each essay will be blindly evaluated by at least two graduate faculty readers, who will rate it “high pass,” “pass,” “low pass,” or “fail.” An essay will pass only if it receives some combination of the following ratings: “high pass,” “pass,” or

“low pass.” You must pass both parts of the exam in order to satisfy the comprehensive examination requirement.