

# College of Education Department of Curriculum & Instruction

## MA EXAM STUDY SESSION

# Policies regarding the MA Comprehensive Written Examination

- When can I take the exam?

You may take the exam during your last semester of MA classes. If you are an MA and licensure student, you may take the exam prior to student teaching.

- Do I need to sign-up for the exam before I take it?

Yes!

# Program of Study

- Completed and approved before taking the exam. Provided to Administrative Assistant of Graduate programs in the C&I office. 575.646-2290

# About the MA Exam Questions

## What questions will I get?...

- The three main components of the Master's Exam are intended to encourage you, as an MA Candidate in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, to demonstrate how you have strived to be Reflective, Theoretical, and Professional. All three components require you to provide insights into: Your professional growth; What you will do to engage within your professional environment; and How the faculty, readings, and research activities have informed your professional life.

# Section 1 Dispositions

- **GOAL: The MA Candidate will reflect on personal and professional dispositions development.**

Review the Dispositions form and reflect on how you have come to the space of being a Master's Candidate. Tell us about your professional insights (big a-ha moments) about what it means to engage in curriculum and instruction. Specifically, how did these insights and subsequent reflection, as related to one of the dispositions, contribute to your current beliefs and positions in education. Please be reflective by giving a historical perspective on your evolution from entry into the MA program to the present.

# Section 2 General Question

- **GOAL: The MA Candidate will demonstrate knowledge and application of C&I core course content.**
- Describe how you have come to understand the concepts of social justice, multicultural education, and educational equity that you engage with based on your experiences in the MA program. Identify the theories in curriculum and instruction that you draw from to inform your practice. Consider three (3) of these following topics in your response: Accountability, assessment, classroom management, community, content, diversity, educational standards, strategies, teaching approaches, technology

# Section 3 Content Specific Question

- **GOAL: The MA Candidate will identify and respond as a professional to challenges in the field.**

The demands of education expect that an MA Candidate be reflective, informed, and resourceful. Identify a single topic or challenge facing the field of education in your area of expertise. The identification of the topic or challenge can be broad within the field or specific to your content area. What do the historical, political, socio-cultural perspectives, research literature say about this topic? Connect this information to the implications of the topic for its constituents. Then identify three commitments to action you will make as a professional educator in light of these implications.

# Minor etc.

- **Section 3 MAT+ (Spanish, Dance, etc.)** – 3rd question as required by that Department.



# Tips to being successful on the MA Exam

## Starting now...

- Revisit course syllabus objectives, required readings, learning tasks, and assignments turned in Attention to core courses: EDUC 515, EDUC 516, EDUC 517/520, EDUC 518 & EDUC 519
- Reflect on applications of these key ideas in real world educational contexts

# Tips to being successful on the MA Exam

## Starting now...

- Identify the relationships among key theorists, philosophers, concepts, and terms in various courses
- Find other MA candidates in your area of specialty to compare notes and study for the exam

# Tips to being successful on the MA Exam

## Starting now...

- Get to campus or your test site early so you can find parking
- It is okay to bring a bottle of water or simple snacks
  - Bring tissues if you think you might need them *You may not bring any paper, notes, etc. with you*
  - Bring registration receipt provided by the C&I Department
  - You will be given the examination packet

# Tips to being successful on the MA Exam

## Starting now...

- You may sit where you would like
- You will be providee an overview of the process.  
Review of Lab procedures (eg. Printing)
- The end time will be posted

# Tips to being successful on the MA Exam

## Starting now...

- You have four hours to answer the three questions
  - Plan your time carefully; for creating an outline
  - for writing each question
  - for review and revision
  - for polishing your essay
  - *make sure you answered the questions fully & clearly!*

# Tips to being successful on the MA Exam

## Starting now...

- Expectation: *at least* 4 citations per answer remember, this is a “Masters” degree—you are a scholar
- APA-style: Author & year direct quotes need page number
- Use your bibliography sheet for clear and concise referencing your work.

# How is the MA Exam graded and who grades the exam?

- MA Rubric review (pdf MA Rubric)
- Each exam question is graded by two C&I faculty members
- Minor questions solicited from another department are read by that department's faculty at least once
- If there is a 10 point or greater difference in the scores of the two reviewers, the question is read a third time by a different reviewer. The two closest scores are counted; the “outlying score” is discarded.

# How is the MA Exam graded and who grades the exam?

- A 0 is given if you do not attempt to answer a question
- The total possible point value is 36 points per question – a 28.8 score or better is what you must have to “pass” on a question
- An average of **28.8** is needed over the 3 questions
- It is possible that a person may not pass on one question but may still pass the MA Exam



# For Further Information

- Contact C&I Associate Department Head for Graduate Studies at OH 122E or voice 575.646.5411 or email your advisor.
- GOOD LUCK TO YOU!!