

Education Specialist (EdS) Comprehensive Examination Description

Applicable Certification-Based Emphases

- *Reading Education, Children's Literature, and Language Arts, P-5*
- *Reading Education, Literature, and Language Arts, 6-12*

The EdS candidate must pass a comprehensive examination administered by the department. This exam consists of a digital portfolio (described below) documenting professional growth and actions taken to improve student learning that the student presents and orally defends to faculty in the Department of Language and Literacy Education. The results of the portfolio examination must be reported to the Graduate School.

Electronic Portfolio

The electronic portfolio should include exhibits and in-depth reflection demonstrating how the EdS candidate has grown in the understanding and application of philosophical, instructional, and assessment approaches. Candidates will document and reflect on how their learning led to changes in instruction and how that instruction influenced student learning, broadly defined. Candidates may document student learning through multiple assessment strategies including, but not limited to, teacher-made assessments, portfolios, oral performance, written products, and other evidence of learning.

Final Specialist Exhibition of the Electronic Portfolio Requirements

1. Title page with name and date.
2. Candidate's resume/vita formatted according to guidelines of the university's Career Planning and Placement Office.
3. Program of study (numbers and names of all courses taken, semester taken, instructor, and final grade if available).
4. A minimum of 5 and maximum of 10 exhibits, approved by the major professor, with accompanying written reflections for each, or a 10-page synthesis paper across all exhibits, emphasizing the learning of the candidate's students. If the candidate is not currently teaching, s/he will develop an alternative portfolio with the advisor's guidance.
5. Exhibits must include the applied project completed in LLED 7650. Other exhibits may be course papers, conference presentations, and action research or other documentation of student learning related to changes in teaching.

Rubric for Electronic Portfolio (Written Exam)

Satisfactory/Pass will be awarded to portfolios that

- are turned in on time;
- include all required components in an electronic form such as Google Sites;
- meet expectations for high-quality, professional exhibits and in-depth reflection; and
- demonstrate growth in the candidate's understanding and application of philosophical, instructional, and assessment tools to improve student learning in his/her K-12 classroom or other educational setting.

Rubric for Presentation (Oral Exam)

Satisfactory/Pass will be awarded to oral presentations that

- are well-organized to highlight the candidate's understanding and application of philosophical, instructional, and assessment knowledge to improve student learning in her/his K-12 classroom or other educational setting;
- provide evidence of rigorous and thoughtful applied inquiry appropriate for the Specialist in Education level;
- are presented in a cohesive and engaging way;
- employ technology to maximize audience understanding.