

CDNS 6907: Comprehensive Examination #2 Scheduling Request Form

In accordance with the Ph.D. Guidelines, this form is to be completed **once your committee has read your dissertation proposal and considers you to be ready for the oral defense**. Submit this form at least **two weeks before** the date on which you and your committee wish to schedule the defense. **(See criteria listed on reverse.) Submit this form, along with your dissertation proposal,** to the School Program Administrator, copying the Graduate Supervisor. Comp. 2 is a defense of your dissertation proposal as well as an examination of your understanding of the readings on your list. Comp. 2 is normally held in March of year 2.

Name and student #:

Title of dissertation proposal:

Date of oral defense:

Examiners: PLEASE PRINT NAME AND SIGN

Supervisor: _____ Signature: _____

Examiner: _____ Signature: _____

Examiner: _____ Signature: _____

Committee members PLEASE NOTE:

Questions to be asked during the defense must be gathered from committee members and provided by the supervisor in advance of the oral defense on our **PhD Comp 2 Oral Examination Template form**.

The instructions on that form are as follows:

“Please provide 6-10 questions that will be discussed during the 2-hour oral examination. At least 3 questions should address the dissertation proposal and at least 3 questions should address the reading list. (It is expected that, in the context of the oral defense, additional questions will be asked in order to assess the student’s close engagement with the reading list and the quality of their dissertation proposal, but the planned questions should be listed here.)”

Date: _____

Signature of student: _____

Departmental Use: Examination scheduled for: _____

Graduate Supervisor Approval: _____

Guidelines for considering the readiness of dissertation proposals for defense #2

The written assignment for Comp 2 is a **dissertation proposal of 20-30 pages (excluding bibliography)**. The proposal should draw on the comp reading list. In order to be considered ready for defense, a dissertation proposal should:

- present and elaborate a research question appropriate to the scope of a doctoral dissertation
- clearly describe the parameters of the research
- clearly identify the primary material, sites, or sources of data to be analyzed
- present the theoretical frame and key concepts to be deployed
- describe the methodology for the project, including specific methods with discussion of the nature of the knowledge they produce
- present a literature review of related published work, which the project proposes to build upon
- provide a preliminary break-down of chapters and their contents

A proposal which is *not* ready for defense is one that fails to meet more than one of the criteria listed above. Inevitably, committee members will have questions and suggestions for improvements to the diss. proposal, but these in and of themselves are not necessarily grounds for a decision that the proposal is not ready to be defended.