Schar School PhD Program in Political Science  
Guidelines for Early Comprehensive Exam Requests

Requests for Early Comprehensive Examinations
Students who have been enrolled in the political science doctoral program for at least one academic year may request to take the comprehensive examination prior to completing all coursework. These students must submit the following for consideration by the program director:

1. A note from their academic advisor supporting the request.
2. A written request to the program director from the student. This must be submitted at least two months prior to the date of the exam. The request will include a description of how the student will meet following criteria by the time of the exam:
   - Complete three required core courses (nine credits from GOVT 510, 520, 530, 540, or 550)
   - Complete two of the three core methods requirements (six credits, preferably GOVT500 and GOVT/PUAD/PUBP511)
   - Complete at least 24 credits of required coursework within the Political Science PhD program, which may include transfer credits.

Under exceptional circumstances and with advisor approval, students may be allowed to take the comprehensive exam prior to completing the 24 credits of required coursework.

Taking the exam before completing coursework may increase the risk of failing. All students are bound by the policy relating to failing grades on the exam (a student who fails any part of the exam twice is terminated from the program).