

## **COMPREHENSIVE EXAMS (COMPS)**

### **1. What are the course requirements before I can take the COMPS?**

-Students need **36 credit hours** to graduate. From these you must take a minimum of:

- 1 course in Linguistics; and
- 3 courses from 3 different literary periods. At least 1 of these courses must be in Latin American Literature and 1 in Peninsular Literature.

The remaining hours may be taken from any departmental graduate offerings.

-Students must also prove **language proficiency** in a language other than Spanish or English. The language proficiency requirement must be fulfilled before the COMPs can be scheduled.

In order to fulfill the foreign language requirement, graduate students must **EITHER** pass the **“Graduate Reading and Translation exam”** **OR** pass the first 4 undergraduate courses of a language different than Spanish and English (that is, up to 2050 or the equivalent) with a grade of C or better.

If you choose the language courses route, mail a copy of your transcripts with your language courses highlighted to Dr. Sánchez-Conejero upon completion of the courses.

\*Note: if you already have the first 4 undergraduate courses of a language different than Spanish and English (that is, up to 2050 or the equivalent) with a grade of C or better in a language different from Spanish or English in your undergraduate transcripts, then the language proficiency requirement is waived for you. In this case you just need to mail your transcripts with your language courses highlighted to Dr. Sánchez-Conejero.

If you choose to take the “Graduate Reading and Translation exam” you must follow these steps:

- 1) Check the UNT language proficiency exam schedule at <http://www.unt.edu/catalogs/2008-09/calendar.htm> (under “Graduate Graduation Deadlines”) and choose an exam date. These exam dates are also posted on our office bulletin board in the Foreign Language Bldg., Room 101.
- 2) Make arrangements in the Foreign Languages department office (Room 101) at least one month prior to scheduled exam.: tell the secretary that you would like to take the “Graduate Reading and Translation exam”. She will first give you a pre-test to prove that you place into the 2040 level. If you placed into 2040, ask her for a blue “Graduate Foreign Language Exam Authorization and Report Card”. Fill it out, pay the fee and turn in it to the secretary.

- 3) Report to the Foreign Language main office (LANG 101) the day of your exam.  
Tell the secretary you are there to take the “Graduate Reading and Translation exam”.

For additional information about the language proficiency exam please visit <http://www.forl.unt.edu/resources/exams.htm> (see “Graduate Reading and Translation exam”) or contact the language exam coordinator, Ms. Connie Martínez at [conniem@unt.edu](mailto:conniem@unt.edu)

**-Graduation packet:** after your COMPs have been scheduled and before taking the COMPs you must fill out a graduation packet with the Graduate School. The student is responsible for contacting the Graduate School and filling out this graduation packet. Failure to do so before taking the COMPs may result in the student not graduating on time.

## **2. How should I study for the COMPS?**

Students should study using both, the MA reading list (many of the works in this list are covered in the courses taught. The ones that are not, the student must prepare on his/her own) and the material from all courses offered, independently if the student took those courses or not. If the student did not take a particular course in which area s/he is going to take his/her COMPs, it is the student’s responsibility to prepare that area of the exam on his/her own. Professors are under no obligation to provide the student with a syllabus or course materials.

## **3. Where can I find a copy of the MA reading list?**

It is online in the department webpage:  
[www.forl.unt.edu/programs/graduate/SpanishReadingList.htm](http://www.forl.unt.edu/programs/graduate/SpanishReadingList.htm)

## **4. How many areas will I have in my COMPS?**

Students will take 5 exams chosen from the following 6 areas:

- 1) Linguistics
- 2) Golden Age Literature
- 3) 20th-21st Century Peninsular Literature
- 4) Colonial Literature (before 1900)
- 5) 20<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup> Century Latin American Literature
- 6) 18th-19th Century Peninsular Literature

## **5. Who will coordinate my exams?**

Students must choose a professor within the Spanish section and ask him/her if s/he is willing to serve as a coordinator for his/her COMPS. If that professor agrees, then

s/he will be the coordinator for your COMPS. Your coordinator will communicate with the graduate advisor regarding the scheduling of your COMPs and is also responsible for collecting your 5 exams and have them ready for when you take your COMPs.

**6. What are the dates of the COMPS?**

Please go back to Dr. Sánchez-Conejero's website and click on "Graduate Advising" and "Exams Schedule".

**7. How do I find out if I passed or failed the COMPS?**

Your COMPS coordinator will send you an official letter indicating whether you passed or failed.