

Doctoral Students

Online Ed.D./Ph.D. Student Orientation: Comps & Dissertation

○ **The Comprehensive Exam**

Concordia University Chicago provides students with the option of a face to face experience for the Comprehensive Exam or an online mediated experience.

- All content of the program is eligible for inclusion in the exam
- Two part exam
 - Content/Specialization
 - Foundations, Research, and Statistics
- A committee of faculty members assess student responses
- Exam dates are published in the Graduate Catalog
- Registration form is in the Program Guidebook
 - **Face to Face Option**
 - COMPS will be held in a live face to face setting.
 - **Online Option**
 - Taken over a specific amount of time in an online format facilitated by a committee of faculty members.

○ **The Dissertation**

Concordia University Chicago provides students with the option of a face to face experience at the main campus for the Dissertation Proposal and Dissertation Defense or a video conference mediated experience.

Dissertation Proposal

- EDL 6105 Research Design
- There must be ample time given for all committee members to read the proposal before the defense date
- The defense is an oral defense. Any questions/comments given by the committee must be addressed in the revised proposal. The chair determines when the proposal has been sufficiently revised.

The Dissertation

- Your final draft
- Written in the most recent edition of APA style
- Defense
- Final Approval and binding
- Graduation

- **Dissertation Defense**
As with the proposal, your chair will determine when your dissertation is ready to be defended. This too is an oral defense. Any questions/comments given by the committee must be addressed in revisions of the dissertation. Your chair will give approval once all changes have been made.
- **IRB – Institutional Review Board**
 - The revised proposal is submitted to the IRB for review.
 - This process will take several weeks.
 - Changes may need to be made or additional information provided based on the feedback from the IRB.
 - No data collection can take place until you receive approval from the IRB.
- **Tips**
 - Use your coursework and assignments can be built toward your dissertation topic and research to help you
 - Talk to your advisor
 - Choose a committee that has skill, expertise, emotional support
 - Get organized
 - Set deadlines for yourself and do CUC work every day.
 - Read other people's dissertations
 - Do one part at a time
 - Save, save, save on hard drive, stick drive, flash drive, etc. and back up.
- **Campus Resources**
 - **CougarNet IT Help Desk** Toll Free 877-796-0003, or 708-209-3131, CougarNet@cuchicago.edu
 - **Library**
 - **Portfolio Coordinator** 708-209-3112