Rhetoric & Composition PhD Qualifying Exam Guidelines
Updated March 14, 2016

To take an area examination in composition and rhetoric, you are expected to do the following:

- Complete English 7030 and 7031 as well as your specialized degree program requirements.
- Approximately one year prior to scheduling your exams, ask a tenure-line specialist in composition and rhetoric to direct this area of your exam. Ideally, this person’s professional and scholarly interests will align with your own.
- Complete core readings from the three major areas listed below and develop, in consultation with your examiner, a module of individualized readings. See the Resource for Developing a Reading List for ideas on module topics. The core and module constitute one area exam. (Approximately 48-50 texts.)
- Relevant to RC students only: The second exam area is designed in consultation with your advisor and should reflect your research interests as you move toward the dissertation. (Approximately 48-50 texts.)
- Prepare for the writing portion of the exam, which requires you to compose essay(s) totaling 3000-5000 words (12-20 double-spaced pages) each exam day.

EXAM AREA DEVELOPMENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>RC Doctoral Students (Approximately 100 texts total)</th>
<th>Non-RC Doctoral Students (Total number of texts dependent on field requirements)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>- Exam Area One: Core readings + module (48-50 texts)</td>
<td>- Exam Area One: Field specific for creative writing, literature, and/or cultural studies</td>
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<tr>
<td>- Exam Area Two: List developed with advisor (48-50 texts)</td>
<td>- Exam Area Two: RC core readings + module (48-50 texts)</td>
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CORE READINGS

The core readings are intended to familiarize you with major debates and issues in the field and establish context for understanding the field’s formation and development. These readings in three areas support your individualized reading module (or set of smaller modules) that you develop based on your interests and in consultation with your advisor. For the core area exam, select at least 8 texts from each of the following three areas:

Disciplinarity


**Rhetorical Theory**


**Writing Pedagogy**


