

**The University of Texas at Tyler  
Department of Health and Kinesiology**

**M.Ed. Degree in Health and Kinesiology**

**Information about Comprehensive Exam, Fall 2009**

The M.Ed. student must satisfactorily complete a comprehensive exam as a graduation requirement. Ordinarily, this exam is taken during the semester before the planned semester of graduation. The overall aim of the exam is to evaluate the student relative to the four major objectives of the M.Ed.-Health and Kinesiology Degree Program:

1. Graduates will be able to critique published research related to health and/or kinesiology.
2. Graduates will be able to discuss in writing issues related to health and/or kinesiology, identifying, analyzing and defending different viewpoints.
3. Graduates will be able to apply theoretical concepts from the research literature to professional practice.
4. Graduates will be able to use computer technology to manage data, access information, and communicate effectively.

Items on this semester's comprehensive exam will relate to two published research papers that will be selected for students prior to the exam.

Schedule of the Exam—On-campus and Off-campus

The exam will be administered at UT Tyler on Friday, November 20, 2009, in the Health and Kinesiology Department's Computer Lab in the Lancaster Academic Wing of the Herrington Patriot Center (HPC 3050). It will start at 8:00 a.m., and a maximum of four hours will be allowed for writing the exam. Students should arrive 10 minute early so everyone can start precisely at 8:00. (Note: All times in this document refer to times in Tyler, TX, on the specified dates.)

A student may choose to take the exam at an off-campus site. Such a student must inform Dr. Spier no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, October 30, of the intent to take the exam at an off-campus site. If a student chooses not to take the exam at UT Tyler on Nov. 20, s/he must arrange a professionally proctored setting for writing the exam. Many colleges and universities provide this service, as do commercial sites (e.g., Sylvan). The student is responsible for any costs associated with such proctoring. The exam setting must provide an Internet-networked computer with standard Microsoft Office software for use during the exam. The date of the exam should be on a day during the week of the on-campus exam (i.e., Nov. 16 - 20). A non-interrupted four-hour time period must be scheduled. The student is responsible for providing Dr. Spier with the following essential information: Exam site, date and time; proctor's name, phone and fax number, and email address. This must be done at least one week ahead of the exam date, to allow

time for finalizing details. Any off-campus exam must be completed, the student's responses forwarded to Dr. Spier by the proctor, and the student's responses received by Dr. Spier no later than 5:00 p.m. on Friday, November 20th.

### Content and Format of the Exam

The exam will consist of essay-type items that all relate either directly or indirectly to two selected published papers. Some items will ask questions about specific aspects of a paper, and others will require transfer, application, or expansion of aspects of both the papers beyond what is presented in the papers themselves. Some questions will deal with the research process related to, for example, research design, variables, validity, reliability, participants or subjects, data collection methods, statistical methods, and major findings. Other exam questions may deal with ethical considerations and educational considerations or applications.

The exam responses will be typed on a computer using Microsoft Word. During the exam, the student may use any reference items (i.e., books, notes, Internet sites etc.), but may not communicate with any other person in any way about the exam. All references must be cited in a list at the end of the student's responses. For references, the student should use either APA formatting style or formatting style of a specific journal, and indicate formatting style used (e.g., APA, *Medicine & Science in Sports & Exercise*, etc).

### Preparing for the Exam

The selected published papers will be made available to the student, two weeks prior to the scheduled exam. The student should thoroughly study the selected published papers prior to the exam. S/he may discuss the papers with others prior to the exam to increase understanding. In addition, the student is urged to review information studied in classes that relates to the M.Ed. Degree Program objectives and to the areas noted in the previous section about exam content. The foundation courses of the M.Ed.-Health and Kinesiology curriculum especially relate to the program objectives, but these objectives should have been reinforced in elective courses also. So, preparation for the exam should emphasize review of the foundation courses, but not to the exclusion of other courses in the student's curriculum.

### Evaluation of the Student's Exam Responses

A committee of Health and Kinesiology faculty will evaluate each student's exam responses and assign a summary evaluation of either Acceptable or Unacceptable. To earn an Acceptable evaluation, the student must communicate understanding of the points addressed by the exam items. In addition, the student must provide responses in the form of complete sentences that clearly address the questions asked, and that contain few spelling, grammatical or other mechanical errors. In other words, responses must be of a quality generally expected of persons holding a master's degree. The student will be notified of his/her evaluation no later than December 11, 2009. If a student receives a summary evaluation of Unacceptable, faculty may assign follow-up activities that would allow the student to complete degree requirements (e.g., re-taking the comprehensive exam the following semester).

### Summary Timeline

Friday, Oct 30, 5:00 p.m. – Deadline for notifying Dr. Spier of intent to take the comprehensive exam this semester.

Friday, Oct. 30, 5:00 p.m. – Deadline for notifying Dr. Spier of intent to take the exam at an off-campus site. Note that specific information about the exam site and proctor must be given to Dr. Spier at least one week before the exam is taken.

Friday, Nov. 6, 5:00 p.m. – Published papers selected by the M.Ed. exam committee will be made available for download by the student.

Friday, Nov. 20, 8:00 a.m.-Noon – On-campus exam in HPC 3050

Friday, Nov. 20, 5:00 p.m. – Deadline for responses of off-campus exam to be received by Dr. Spier

Friday, Dec 11 – Deadline for notifying student of summary evaluation of performance on exam

(NOTE: All times in this document refer to times in Tyler, TX on the specified dates.)

Please address questions or concerns to:

Scott A. Spier, Ph.D.  
Department of Health and Kinesiology  
The University of Texas at Tyler  
3900 University Blvd.  
Tyler, TX 75799  
903-566-7427  
Fax: 903-566-7065  
sspier@uttyler.edu