

Policy on Comprehensive Examinations

Department of Physical Sciences – Geology Program
Kutztown University of Pennsylvania – May 2005

Purpose

The purpose of the comprehensive exam in geology is to assess each student's mastery of undergraduate geological concepts. This instrument will provide valuable feedback to both faculty and students. All students pursuing a BS degree in Geology must satisfactorily complete the geology comprehensive examination.

Eligibility

In order to be eligible to take the geology comprehensive exam, the student must first complete 90 credits toward graduation with 28 of those credits in geology courses and have a quality point average (QPA) greater than or equal to 2.0.

Establishing Eligibility

The student wishing to take the geology comprehensive exam must complete the Geology Comprehensive Exam Eligibility Form available from the Senior Seminar instructor. The form must be taken to the student's advisor for confirmation of eligibility, and then returned to the Senior Seminar instructor at least one week prior to the exam date.

Scheduling of Exam

The geology comprehensive examinations will be offered once during the spring semester, once during the fall semester, and once during the summer. At least two weeks prior to the comprehensive examination, the date and time will be announced. *The exam may also be offered at an alternate time by special arrangement.*

Exam Format

The geology comprehensive examination is 100 multiple choice questions covering each of the major subjects of geology required within the major.

Grading the Exam

The exams will be graded by the faculty member administering the exam.

Passing Grade

Each student must pass the comprehensive exam with a score of 70% correct or higher.

Repeating the Exam

The comprehensive exam may be repeated only once during any particular semester. Dates for exam repetition during the same semester must be arranged with the faculty member administering the exam.

Notification of Exam Results

Students will be notified in writing of their exam results. A copy of the letter will be sent to the advisor of each student for inclusion in the student's file. Students may not receive a copy of the exam or answers due to the confidential nature of the exam.

Geology Comprehensive Exam Eligibility Form

Revised: May 2005

To be completed by student:

Name: _____

Mailing address: _____

To be completed by advisor:

Current semester: _____

Total number credits
completed _____

Number credits
completed in geology _____

Current QPA _____

Advisor signature: _____ Date: _____

Student signature: _____ Date: _____

Note: This form must be on file in the Physical Science Department one week prior to the date of the comprehensive exam.

Exam Results

Score:

Pass Not Pass

(circle one)

Date: