

The Second Examination tests a student's ability to develop a research proposal. The student should demonstrate the capacity to identify a problem, support the significance of that problem, review the pertinent literature regarding the problem in a complete but parsimonious way, develop research questions, and formulate a research methodology to explore those questions. The research design should include how, who, and what would be asked/gathered, and the approach to data analysis. The examination should demonstrate the student has developed skills in conceptualization, problem/question formulation, and a research methodology design. The examination should not exceed 50 pages excluding references.

Domain	Coverage	Pass
<b>Problem Formulation</b>		
	Presents a convincing argument for the significance of the problem; discussion should move from the general to the specific	
	Provides evidence for the significance of the problem	
	Provides rationale for relevance the research topic to knowledge base, practice, or policy	
	Provides clear statement of the research problem	
<b>Context of Social Policy</b>	Demonstrates an understanding of the social, political, economic, ideological, and historical context of the problem	
	As relevant, presents current policies and practice implications related to the problem under study	
<b>Literature Review</b>	Evidence that the student has conducted a comprehensive search of the scholarly and/or literature	
	Overall, literature review represents a synthesis of empirical knowledge of the problem, including historical coverage as appropriate with research reports generally from the last five years	
	Evidence of conceptual organization in presenting current empirical knowledge of the topic within a clear and well-ordered construction	
	Identifies main methodologies and research techniques used to study the problem with critical analysis of methods employed in empirical studies	
	Identifies gaps in the literature or research that builds on current knowledge as basis for further study	
<b>Theoretical Concepts</b>	Identifies as least one theory that can serve as the conceptual basis for the proposed study or that provides sensitizing concepts in the case of qualitative inquiry	
	Provides a thorough rationale for how and why that theory selected informs the research question	
<b>Methodology</b>	Selects a methodological approach that flows logically from the current state of knowledge related to the research question	
	Statement of research questions and/or hypotheses as appropriate to research approach selected	
	Argues for the selection of the research approach selected for the study; in the case of qualitative methodology, specify the tradition and rationale for its selection	
	Presents a research design that includes subject criteria; subject recruitment, potential sources of data; data collection methods; instrumentation, and plan for data analysis as appropriate to the research approach selected	
	Identifies and address ethical issues that might arise in the research	