1. **First Doctoral Examination**

The purpose of the first level doctoral examinations is to assess whether a student has reached competency in certain core areas of educational psychology. Students are required to successfully complete their first-level exams to continue their study in the program. There are two pairs of first-level exams.

In the first of these pairs, student knowledge in the following two exam areas is assessed:

1. Statistics Exam
2. Research Methods Exam

In an additional pair of first-level exams, four core areas of *Learning, Development, and Instruction* are assessed, with each student assessed on any two of these four exam areas of their choosing:

1. Cognition and Learning Exam
2. Socio-Emotional & Cultural Factors in Development and Education Exam
3. Instructional Issues Exam
4. Language Development Exam

*Exam Administration.* The Statistics and Research Methods exams are typically administered on the same day, with a break between them. Each exam is 90 minutes in length. Students will be required to take these exams after their first year of study in the program and before they begin their second year of study. Typically, this is in the month of August. For each exam, students have a choice of questions (usually three) from which they would typically be requested to select two to answer. Hence students typically will be answering two questions in total for each exam and four in total for this pair of exams.

For the second first-level exam pair (in the area of Learning, Development, and Instruction), *students will select only two of the four exams within which to answer questions.* Students will make this selection well in advance of the exam so that they can limit their preparation to just the two areas. Students will have the option to take these exams, typically administered on the same day with a break in between, midway through their second year of study in the program (typically this would be in January) or after completing their second year and before beginning their third year (typically this would be in August). *Students will be required to answer a total of two questions chosen as follows. For each of the two exams the student has opted to take, students will have a choice of questions to select one to answer.* Students will be provided 90 mins per exam to provide their answer.
**Exam Grading.** Each exam is graded blindly by the faculty. Examinee exams will be identified only by ID numbers. Each exam will be graded by two faculty graders working independently of each other. In cases of agreement across the two graders on an exam, the exam grade will be the agreed upon grade. Where there is disagreement in grading an exam across the two faculty graders, a third member of the faculty will participate in judging that area question.

Any exam that the student fails must be retested in the following semester. Students are permitted *only one retake per exam*. In the case of failure, students are urged to discuss any exam failed with their academic advisor and appropriate faculty. The student will be informed of the identity of the faculty graders so that, in case of exam failure, the appropriate faculty will explain the basis of their grade to the student.

Updated reading lists will be available by May 15 for the examinations that are to be given in the subsequent August and Oct 15 for the examinations to be given in the subsequent January. Students must register for the examination with the Assistant Program Officer by the deadline date on the examination application form.