



ThM Comprehensive Exam Guide

The exam consists of four questions formulated by the student's instructor(s), in consultation with the Th.M. director. Students must consult with their instructors to determine which courses will inform the exam questions (e.g. 2 questions from 2 courses, 1 question from 4 courses, etc.) The questions are designed to require of the student a summary of the issues raised in the student's coursework. In consultation with the instructor, students may take this exam in an in-class setting or as a take-home exam. The answers to each question are normally 3,000-4,000 words per question, for a grand total of 12,000-16,000 words (typed and double-spaced). The comprehensive examination will be given at the close of the course of study for the degree, ordinarily in April or November, but no later than the end of the final reading week in the semester which the student will graduate.

The response to the exam question(s) should be accompanied by a cover page (available on the Divinity website) that includes space for the signatures of the instructor and the Th.M. director. Except in those cases where the director is also administering the exam, the director's signature indicates only that the question has been successfully answered and accepted. After receiving the question(s), the instructor should communicate approval or rejection of the response to the Th.M. director, who will then communicate the results to the Office of Academic Formation and Programs. It is also acceptable for the instructor to notify the Office of Academic Formation and Programs directly of approval or rejection of the response, who will then verify approval or rejection with the Th.M. director. Once responses to all four questions have been approved, the Th.M. director will submit a copy of the signed cover page to the Office of Academic Formation and Programs for inclusion in the student's record.