

CSD Master's Degree Culminating Experience Comprehensive Evidence-Based Practice Case Application (Comps) [Handbook Appendix 3A]

Every master's student in the School of CSD completes the comprehensive, evidence-based practice (EBP) case application examination (comps) as the culminating experience of the master's program. Comps is an official course in the curriculum (CSD 535; 0 credits), and is a graduation requirement to "pass" this course.

Purpose

Comps is a summative assessment intended to ensure that a master's candidate: (1) possesses the applied knowledge and skills to develop an appropriate, comprehensive, interdisciplinary care plan, (2) can think clinically, critically, and reflectively and (3) can effectively communicate about client plans of care.

Requirements for Participation

To participate in comps, students must meet ALL of the following criteria:

1. Be registered in CSD 535 Comprehensive Examination
2. Be registered in CSD 534 Clinical Externship
3. Completion of a midterm evaluation in CSD 534 Clinical Externship with demonstrated satisfactory progress toward completion of the externship
4. Have successfully completed all academic coursework
5. Have no outstanding incompletes or unfulfilled remediations

Case Selection

Each student will select a clinical case from either their Practicum III or Clinical Externship to present.

Case Selection Criteria: A selected case must meet **ALL** of the following criteria. If you are unsure if a case meets the criteria, please contact the chair of the comprehensive exam committee (amanda.stead@pacificu.edu).

1. Case from either their Practicum III or Clinical Externship
2. The case must have at least two diagnoses or distinct areas of treatment (e.g., speech & language, feeding & cognition, AAC & dysphagia)
3. The case should be one in which **you** have conducted at least six therapeutic visits and/or completed a course of treatment (e.g., assessment, treatment, discharge).
4. The case cannot have been used in a previous course assignment.

Required Components

There are two (2) parts to the comprehensive EBP application:

- (1) Case report: The case report will allow students to demonstrate the ability to communicate clinical information, illustrate clinical thinking, detail current evidence, and appraise their practice. Students must complete a case report template detailing the client's relevant background, assessment, treatment, extra considerations, analyses, and clinical reflection.
- (2) Grand Rounds presentation: The Grand Rounds presentation will consist of a brief summary of the chosen case and will typically take place in small groups. Two faculty will be present in each Grand Rounds session.

Assessment

To pass the comprehensive exam, a student must obtain at least a 2.5 on the written case report AND have completed a Grand Rounds case presentation with a grade of Pass. Further details are as follows.

1. The written case report is an individual assessment and will be scored by two faculty members. The two scores are averaged. The written component of the comprehensive exam is scored on a four-point scale.
 - 1 = No Pass
 - 2 = Concerns
 - 3 = Pass
 - 4 = High Pass

If a student receives a 2.0 or lower on the written case report, they will be provided with written feedback from the graders about why they did not pass that component of the exam. They will also be allowed to submit a revision in which they respond to the feedback; the revision will typically include providing further details or clarifying information about the submitted case.

Students who do not pass on a second attempt will again receive written feedback from the graders about why they did not pass that exam component. They will then be given a third attempt at providing the necessary information for the case report.

Any student who has not passed the written case report of the exam after the third attempt will be referred for an Academic and Professional Conduct Hearing in accordance with the process detailed in Chapter 6 of the Handbook with a recommendation for dismissal from the program.

2. The Grand Rounds component of the comprehensive exam is required and graded as Pass/No Pass. Two faculty will be present in each grand round group to ask relevant clarifying questions. At least one of these faculty members will have previously read the student's written case report. Students must complete their Grand Rounds session with all the components listed below to pass their comprehensive exams.

As with the written portion, students who receive a grade of No Pass on the Grand Rounds component will be given up to two additional opportunities to present their case to a committee of two faculty members; for subsequent attempts typically at least one faculty member will not have been present for the previous presentation.

As with the written portion, any student who has not passed the Grand Rounds portion of the exam after the third attempt will be referred for an Academic and Professional Conduct Hearing in accordance with the process detailed in Chapter 6 of the Handbook with a recommendation for dismissal from the program.

Scheduling

The EBP case application comps exam typically takes place in the middle of the Spring semester of your second year. It is usually scheduled to occur around the time of spring break and the schedule is typically determined early in the previous Fall semester to allow students time to plan around the date and to provide sufficient notice to their externship sites. Students must have completed a midterm evaluation in CSD 534 Clinical Externship with demonstrated satisfactory progress toward completion of the externship. The comprehensive exam will also be delayed if a student is on a delayed program.

Outline for Grand Rounds

A half day will be set aside for the Grand Rounds meeting. Students will be excused from full-time clinical practicum on this day. In random order, each student has 10 minutes to present their case. Each component of the outline below must be discussed to complete the Grand Round presentation. Please use the following outline and provide the most relevant information from each section:

- Situation and background (*suggested time: 1 - 2 minutes*)
- Assessment (*suggested time: 2 - 3 minutes*)
- Treatment/follow-up recommendations (*suggested time: 2 - 3 minutes*)
- Interprofessional work and analysis (*suggested time: 2 - 3 minutes*)

Following the Grand Rounds case presentation, faculty will have the opportunity (typically 10-15 minutes) to ask clarifying questions about the case, and all students will answer a series of broad reflective questions (at least two) about their clinical practice and readiness. Students in the Grand Rounds group who are not presenting their own cases will be active learners as they attend peer presentations.

A grade of PASS in the Grand Rounds portion of comps must include:

- 1). A presentation discussing all of the components outlined above;
- 2). Appropriate responses to the clarifying questions posed by faculty members with sufficient detail;
- 3). Responses to the reflective questions (at least two) demonstrating evidence of critical thinking.

The two faculty members present will make a consensus decision of pass / no pass after the completion of the Grand Rounds case presentation.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

How can I best prepare?

Since this summative assessment is designed to be comprehensive as a culminating experience in the program, students are expected to review their course notes, readings, and competencies from every required course. Faculty will provide one or two example cases so you know what to expect.

What will the written case report entail?

The goal is for students to prepare a clinically relevant, written report which will include: a summary of case history, a summary of relevant assessment results and diagnosis, referrals if indicated, treatment goals supported with rationales from primary sources of evidence with an emphasis on the empirical research literature, and reflective analysis.

What will the oral presentation entail?

The oral presentation ensures the student can *clearly and succinctly* summarize a case and relevant SLP findings in a team forum. The oral presentation is a brief (typically 10 minutes) synopsis of the case and justification of the diagnosis and treatment recommendations. This is also a significant opportunity to demonstrate competency and flexible clinical problem-solving by responding to relevant questions from faculty.

What if my externship is outside the Portland area?

It is assumed that if a student's externship is within the states of Washington or Oregon, they will come to the Forest Grove campus for Grand Rounds Day. Please plan schedules accordingly. If the externship is elsewhere, students can complete the Grand Rounds component from a distance. In such cases, an online platform will be used.

How much time off should I plan for from my externship?

The policy of CSD faculty is that students will only take off the day of the actual comprehensive exam. If a student has to travel a long distance (i.e., more than a 3-hour drive) to come to the Forest Grove campus, it would be acceptable also to request an excused absence the day before the comprehensive exam.

What if I have accommodations for academic testing?

Accommodations are available to students with disabilities documented through the Office of Accessibility and Accommodation (OAA) Services and that meet the requirement for a reasonable accommodation associated with the comprehensive examination process. Students must request accommodations for the Comprehensive Exam in writing to the Chair of the Comprehensive Examination Committee. Typically, such requests are expected to be submitted in the semester before the scheduled Comprehensive Exam to allow for any required scheduling modifications for the student, the externship site, and OAA. If there are any questions about what constitutes a reasonable accommodation for the Comprehensive Exam, such questions will be evaluated by the Comprehensive Examination Committee in consultation with the Director of the School of CSD and the Director (or designate) of OAA.