

Family, Consumer, and Human Development
Comprehensive Doctoral Exam Guide Minor
in Family Relations
Study Menu

Topic Areas	Theories
Cohabitation	Social Exchange
Marital Quality	Systems
Divorce	Ecological
Parent-Child Issues	Feminist theories

- The examination committee will provide you with three choices from the “Topic Areas” list from which you will select one.
- The examination committee will provide you with three choices from the “Theories” list from which you will select one as your grounding theory.
- After selecting a “topic area” and a “theory,” you will be given a “Context” and will be asked to integrate current empirical and theoretical knowledge to demonstrate your understanding of marriage and family relations. Using the topical area, grounded in a theoretical framework, answer the questions below in the context provided. Each section is worth one-fourth of your total score.

Sample CONTEXT: Assume that you are going to address a legislative committee about policy in the area of concern. Your charge is to inform and bring them up to date so that when they leave the session they are more fully informed and thus can make better policy decisions. Use citations as appropriate in giving your responses.

QUESTIONS:

A. Give current statistics about the incidence and direction of trends relating to the topic area selected.

B. Using the theory that you have selected, outline the major assumptions and define its key concepts.

C. Next, apply the theory that you have selected to the topic area and show how this theory brings a sense of understanding and interpretation to the content area for the policy makers.

D. Finally, what are the major strengths and limitations of the selected theory as related to the topic area? How useful is the theory in helping one to understand family processes in this topic area?