

Learning Sciences Specialization Area Exam

The purpose of the Learning Sciences specialization area exam is to assess the (a) student's scholarly skills (e.g., analysis, synthesis, writing, argumentation) and (b) knowledge of the major issues, literature, and research in the broad areas of the Learning Sciences (LS) as well as specialized knowledge in the student's research area. This exam is based on the LS courses taken during the first and second year as well as reading lists developed with the advisor and the specialization area exam committee. The Specialization area Exam Committee will be constituted for each student taking it. The Committee will consist of the student's adviser and two faculty members from LS, one of whom will be the chair. Passing this exam is required in order to advance to proposing, research, and writing the dissertation. When the student has completed two of the three offerings of the LS specialization, the student is eligible to take the exam.

Exams are rated as Pass/Revise/Fail. Within one month, results of the exam will be returned to the student.

- If a student receives a rating of "Pass" the student is eligible to advance to preparation of the dissertation.
- If a student receives a rating of "Fail" the student is terminated from the Learning Sciences program.
- In the case of the "Revise" rating, the student must complete additional tasks to be determined by the LS faculty (e.g., written revisions that take into account faculty comments, oral exam, production of a paper, etc.). The LS faculty will then re-evaluate student performance on the exam and additional tasks, and assign either a Pass or Fail rating, with consequences as outlined above. Only one revision round is permitted.

Timeline

By the End of Fall Semester in the Second Year:

- Faculty will create the specialization area exam committee.
- The committee will distribute the reading list based on the LS coursework to the students.

- Students will work with their advisors to produce their individualized reading list.

Exam Given in June of Second Year:

- Responses to the questions are due to the chair of the committee one week after the exam is given.
- Outcome of the exam will be given within approximately a month.

For more information about the Learning Sciences PhD, visit our [Learning Sciences Specialization](#) page. For information about the application process, visit our [How to Apply](#) webpage.