Field Exam for International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (2010)

Students should contact the field coordinator sometime during their last semester of course work (typically 4-6 months prior to taking the comprehensive exam).

Students prepare a reading list that is organized by topic area – including negotiation, mediation, conflict resolution theory, and international conflict management. This list is presented to the field coordinator who reviews it and discusses it with the students and usually suggests additions and modifications before approving a final list. This process often requires several iterations, and there is an opportunity to discuss the relative emphasis of topic areas. The list should include articles, books, reports and other sources that may or may not have been assigned for specific courses. The study period is seen as not only a review of material, but an opportunity to read books and key articles that have not yet been read by the student. Relative emphasis of topic areas may vary among the student reading lists depending upon the major areas of interest, but students are expected to cover all important aspects of the field.

All students now have 7.5 hours for each written exam. The exam consists of four questions and the student will be expected to answer all of these.

A single exam is given for all students taking the exam during a specific exam period. This is a comprehensive field exam, and while students may choose very different specific examples, it is expected that all students understand the fundamental concepts and how to use analytical tools from the field in answering the exam questions. The exam may be taken using a computer, but students should not access the internet or any computer files for information.

The oral exam will primarily cover questions that were on the written exam and is normally used for clarification of answers from the written exam. The student will be responsible for all of the questions on the written exam, even those they did not choose to answer. Additional follow-up questions may be asked, and the student may be asked to make connections with other fields.