

Marshall University
Sport Management Master's Degree
Comprehensive Exam Policy & Guidelines

As the culminating experience for Marshall University's Master's Degree in Sport Administration, students will present to the faculty on their committee a 20-30 minute oral presentation using the internship, graduate assistantship, or special project experience as context for a demonstration of the student's ability to problem solve and to apply sport management theories, ideas, and concepts to their daily practice as a sport manager. The internship, graduate assistantship, or special project used in the presentation must have taken place during the student's time as a graduate student at Marshall University.

The comprehensive examination is designed to test comprehension of the total field of study and is not limited to specific information covered formally in classes. Of course the comprehensive exam will cover course material including everything from the mastery of basic facts to the comprehension and application of advanced theory. Yet the comprehensive exam is also supposed to allow students to demonstrate a mature grasp of the sports industry as well as an ability to handle professional situations. To that end, the comprehensive exam will challenge students to prepare, present, and communicate ideas. The comprehensive exam will challenge students to think on their feet, adapt to the situation, and act in a professional manner.

The student's opening presentation will consist of two parts. The first part – which should last no more than five minutes – will consist of a brief personal introduction, a short description of the organization they worked for, as well as a description of the job responsibilities and duties the student performed for the organization. In the second part – which should use the rest of the 20-30 minutes allotted – students are expected to demonstrate an ability to apply, analyze, and synthesize information from the courses required in the Master's degree program to their work/internship experience. Student's who avoid such synthesis can expect more vigorous questioning from their committee members.

Committee members will also question the student about topics not covered in the presentation or for further clarification. Students may receive potential questions beforehand in order to prepare themselves. Students are advised to contact all their committee members before the comprehensive exam to see if the committee member would like them to focus their review/studies on particular topics/readings. Committee members however are under no obligation to give students such information. All students will be treated fairly and will be graded on the merits of their presentation, as well as their ability to demonstrate a mastery of the material they are questioned on.

Once the presentation and question period are over committee members will discuss the student's presentation. Based on the quality of the presentation, as well as the student's answers to the committee's questions, the committee will decide whether the student has passed their comprehensive exam. Students who; demonstrate a clear understanding of the material presented, who can synthesize practice with theory, who exemplify a culmination of experience

and knowledge indicative of a sport management professional, and who can intelligently converse with the committee during the question and answer session, will pass their comprehensive exam.

If the committee members are not satisfied with the student's presentation and answers to questions, the student will have to retake the exam during the following semester. Students should expect a new set of questions from the committee and should plan accordingly.

Comprehensive examinations for Marshall University's Master's in Sport Administration will be administered twice a year, during the first two weeks of November and the first two weeks of April. Students must register for the examination with Marshall University's Sport Management program Graduate Coordinator at the beginning of the semester. The deadline to register for the comprehensive exam will coincide with Marshall University's deadline to file paperwork for graduation. (This date can be found on the Marshall University's academic calendar; the date usually falls with the first month of any given semester's classes).