

Final Oral Examination for SHS Graduate Students Non-Thesis Track/Intensive Case Reviews (ver. 2023)

Structure of final oral examination

Length of exam: ~75 minutes

Length of student presentation: ~20 minutes/case with ~10-15 minutes of questions and answers/case.

Format of exam presentation: PowerPoint or similar software program

Dates for the exam: October through mid- April during the final year of graduate school. The defense date is determined in consultation with your committee chair and committee members.

Due dates: For Graduate School due dates for final exam scheduling, go to:

<https://gradschool.wsu.edu/deadlines/>

Content: Oral examination will include 2 case presentations, questions related to the case presentations, and may include questions covering all KASA content areas.

The final oral examination is your opportunity to demonstrate breadth of knowledge and critical thinking and reasoning skills.

Committee members

Students selecting the Non-Thesis, Intensive Case Review (ICR) final oral exam option will be assigned a faculty advisor (committee chair) and two other committee members for their oral examination during their first semester of graduate school.

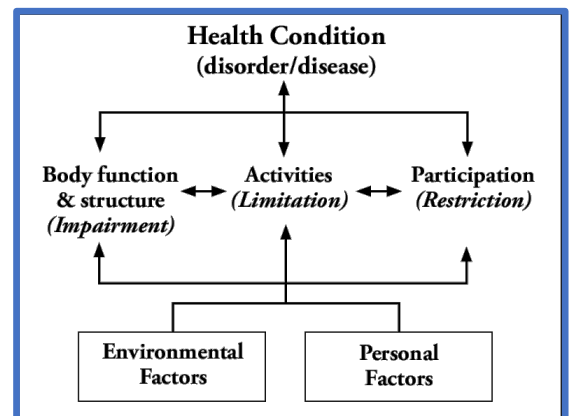
General instructions to the graduate student

Prepare two case studies of patients or clients you have seen in clinic, practicum, or internship. Select patients or clients with different etiologies.

Intensive case review content

1. Background

- Describe your client using the International Classification of Functioning, Disability, and Health (ICF) framework
- Cultural and linguistic consideration
- Reason for referral
- Therapy history – Respect HIPAA guidelines and remove all identifying information. For example: Do NOT include identifying location information (e.g., say “an outpatient clinic” but do not say “at the WSU Speech & Hearing Clinic”)
- Prior progress in therapy



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2. *Assessment*

- Results and interpretation of assessment, including diagnosis and relevant standardized and informal measures
- Resources utilized at this point (e.g., journal articles, class notes, textbooks, etc.)

3. *Treatment plan*

- Goals and objectives
- Evidence-based rationale for goals and objectives
- Resources utilized at this point (e.g., journal articles, class notes, textbooks, etc.)

4. *Treatment results*

- Goals and objectives met/partially met/unmet

5. *Post-clinical recommendations*

- Did you discharge the patient?
 - If so, provide a rationale
 - If not, what recommendations did you make for continuing treatment?
 - Referrals made

6. *Personal reflection*

- What did you do well with this client?
- What would you do differently?
 - Justify those differences with evidence from the literature
- How would you apply what you learned from this case to future cases?
- Resources utilized at this point (e.g., journal articles, class notes, textbooks, etc.)

7. *References*

- Each case should include a reference list, typically including at least 10 journal articles per case study and any additional applicable resources (e.g., book chapters, etc.)
- References, regarded in the evidence-based practice approach to service delivery, should be explicitly considered in the defense and the student is expected to present and discuss the detailed content of the evidence.

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Typical timeline

G1 Fall

Meet with your assigned committee chair to discuss final defense options. Some students are undecided about intensive case review or research at this time; engagement is important regardless of which option is ultimately pursued.

G1 Spring

File your Program of Study – required of all students.

G2 Fall

Meet with your committee chair early in the semester to discuss your progress.

You may want to select one patient or client from your first year of clinical experience, find and study related research, and begin preparing your case.

G2 Spring*

1. Submit both cases to your committee chair for approval to move forward or revise and resubmit. Communicate with all committee members about the content and your proposed timeline.
2. Find defense date that works for you and your committee and schedule your defense.
3. Submit your final examination scheduling form to the Graduate School at least 10 business days before your defense. See due dates for more details: <https://gradschool.wsu.edu/deadlines/>
4. Send your presentation materials (if any) to your committee at least 5 days before your defense. If you are citing references that are likely unfamiliar to your committee, submit copies of the reference with the documents.

* Note: it is possible to defend in the G2 Fall semester. This requires that the student is prepared and requires some minor planning/paperwork. One reason for a Fall defense is when a student accepts (or expects to accept) a G2 Spring placement outside of the area, making a Fall defense logistically advantageous.

Additional Resources

You are encouraged to communicate with our committee chair, members of your committee, or any faculty members if you have any questions. The faculty are committed to working with students and dedicated to promoting student success.

Go to VanDam's Speech & Language Lab website and look under the *Resources* section for examples of presentations <https://labs.wsu.edu/vandam/resources/> available on YouTube. There are also other resources there regarding defense details.