The Master’s Final Examination

The Master’s Final Examination is a written examination consisting of two parts, four hours each, which is administered by the Chair of the Master’s Committee on two consecutive days:

1. Part I, to be scheduled the first day of the examination, is an explication de texte written in French. Three texts not previously studied by the candidate, but germane to the candidate’s individual program of study, are chosen by the Master’s Committee and distributed to the candidate by the Committee Chair 90 days before the examination date. In preparing the texts, the candidate is expected to be guided by his/her experience as a reader, the program of study, and appropriate research. On the day of the examination the candidate draws at random one of the three texts for the exercise.

2. Part II, to be administered the second day of the examination, consists of one or more essays delving into questions and problems inherent in the candidate’s individual program of study. The Master’s Committee develops the essay questions in advance of the examination date, but does not divulge them to the candidate before the time to write. The essays may be written in English or in French.

The members of the Master’s Committee read and grade the examination, meet to reach a consensus on the outcome, and report the results to the DGS; the DGS in turn informs the student and the Graduate School of the result. The possible results are Pass (both parts are satisfactory) or Fail (one or both of the parts are unsatisfactory). Candidates may be reexamined one time on the unsatisfactory Part or Parts.

Master’s Final Examinations are normally scheduled two times during the calendar year, depending on faculty availability, in late November and late April. (Students should check the official UK Academic Calendar to confirm the current deadlines.)

** The M.A. candidate should schedule a meeting with his/her committee chair (see below) to discuss the results of the exam once they have been communicated by the committee. **

The Master’s Committee

Each student will choose a Master’s Committee consisting of three members of the French graduate faculty, one of whom will serve as Chair.

The Master’s Committee is appointed by the Graduate School upon recommendation by the DGS. Students ask faculty members to serve on their Committees and name one as Chair (the committee Chair must be a Full or Associate Professor). Students then inform the DGS of their choices. The Master’s Committee is normally designated in the semester preceding the term when the student proposes to take the Master’s Final Examination. The Committee reviews the student’s course work, advises the candidate on preparation for the examination (which may include taking additional courses), and ultimately designs, administers, and evaluates the final written examination. The student must submit to the committee by early March a list of course works studied, since the committee bases its questions on this list.

Scheduling the Master’s Final Examination

Texts for Part I of the Master’s Final Examination will not be distributed to the candidate until the following criteria have been met:

1. A cumulative 3.0 GPA on graduate course work taken at or transferred to the University of Kentucky.
2. Completion of all work in courses in which the student has received an Incomplete.
3. Fulfillment of the Second Foreign Language Requirement, concurrent enrollment in a course that will lead to completion of the requirement (may include the course 011 “for Reading Knowledge” in another language dept.), or a written agreement to enroll in such a course the very next semester. The requirement may also be met by work that offers a reading knowledge of another language done previously at other universities.

4. Successful completion of a minimum of ten graduate-level courses in French, including FR 553 (Teaching of French), or concurrent enrollment in the tenth course.

The Chair of the Master’s Committee schedules the date of the Master’s Final Examination in consultation with the candidate and the other members of the Committee.