

**Comprehensive Exam Areas/Topics  
Examples**

These areas and topics are recent examples from approved graduate student comprehensive exams. The list is not intended to represent all possible topics and areas. Topics and areas are supposed to be broader than the dissertation and should represent subjects that might be suitable topics for an advanced undergraduate or graduate seminar. All topics and areas must be approved by the student's Guidance Committee and by the Graduate Curriculum and Programs Committee.

Normally students will choose one geographic area and one topic. Occasionally, a student (usually in physical anthropology) will have two topics instead. In this situation, the student must present an explanation, within the Bibliography, as to why two topics are most appropriate, rather than a topic and a geographic area.

<b>Geographic Areas</b>	<b>Topics</b>
West Africa Anglophone West Africa East Africa South Africa Caribbean Europe Focus on the Southern Cone Northern Pacific Rim Mexico Central America Archaeology of South Asia Archaeology of Northern Eurasia PreHispanic Mesoamerica Caribbean Archaeology Northeastern North American Archaeology Archaeology of the American Southwest Archaeology of the Eastern Woodlands Mesoamerican Archaeology (emphasis on West Mexico) Archaeology of the American Southeast from Contact to the Antebellum Period Archaeology of North America (focus on Eastern Woodlands) Archaeology of North America (focus on Great Lakes)  ("Great Lakes archaeology" has been deemed too narrow for the purposes of the comprehensive exam)	Anthropology of Health Anthropology of Disability Critical Medical Anthropology Medical Anthropology Infectious Disease Self and Society Maintenance and Construction of Identity International Migration and Transnationalism The Anthropology of Development Anthropology of Development and Identity Political Ecology and Development Anthropology and Economics Legal Anthropology Psychological Anthropology Anthropological Theory: Structuralism Race in the USA Forensic Anthropology Skeletal Biology Biocultural Adaptations Bioarchaeology Culture Contact and Colonialism Ceramic Production and Distribution Evolution of Complex Societies Theories of Social Change Landscapes in Archaeology Social Integration and Spatial Behavior in Small Scale Societies Spatial Organization of Social Behavior Culture Contact: Trade and Exchange Ceramic Style Cultural Landscapes Craft Production and Distribution (focus on lithics) The Capitalist World System and Expanding World Economies