

**The Comprehensive Exam in Graduate Programs:
A Necessary Evil, a Useful Interrogative, of an Archaic Relic of the Past?**

We invite graduate coordinators, department chairs, and/or administrators to participate in a discussion of the utility of comprehensive exams. There are several schools of thought regarding their existence as part of the graduation requirements in MS programs:

- It is archaic. How can you flunk someone and toss them after they've spent years completing coursework?
- It can be of great assistance in assessment .
- It guarantees that graduates possess requisite knowledge to justify awarding a graduate degree.

Let's take an hour and discuss these. We'd like to have participation from programs in each category (we at KU use it in assessment) to facilitate exchange of pros and cons, as many programs have reflected on the role of comprehensive exams and made changes in the content or eliminated them altogether..