These guidelines govern all PhD and MFA examinations administered Fall 2013 or after. Note that there is no longer a secondary field examination as part of the Creative Writing PhD comprehensive examination process. Please review these guidelines carefully, noting that there are important differences between the MFA and PhD comprehensive examinations, and between the examinations in fiction and poetry.

All examinations are based on official readings lists of primary and secondary works that provide a starting point for preparing for the exams. Note that the reading lists for the PhD and MFA examinations may be different. Students must meet with their exam directors to discuss these lists and prepare for examinations.

**POETRY**

**PhD**
The PhD comprehensive examination in poetry is a two-day, on-site exam. Each examination period is four hours. The examination on Day 1 includes a section of identifications and either two or three essays dealing with works and authors pre-1900 drawn from the PhD reading list. The examination administered on Day 2 is comprised of three or four essays about works and authors post-1900 drawn from the PhD reading list. Your examination director will decide on the final format for the examination.

**MFA**
The MFA comprehensive examination in poetry is a two-part exam. Part 1 is on-site, and the examination period is four hours. The Part 1 examination includes a section of identifications and either two or three essays based on the MFA reading list. Part 2 is a take-home examination, and the examination period is 72 hours. The student completes an essay based on a topic provided by her or his exam director and based on the MFA reading list. Your examination director will decide on the final format for the examination.

**FICTION**

**PhD**
The PhD comprehensive examination in fiction is a two-day, on-site exam. Each day a four-hour examination is administered. The examination on Day 1 includes a section of identifications and either two or three essays dealing with works and authors pre-1900 drawn from the PhD reading list. The examination administered on Day 2 is comprised of three or four essays about works and authors post-1900 drawn from the PhD reading list. Your examination director will decide on the final format for the examination.

**MFA**
The MFA comprehensive examination in fiction is a one-day, on-site examination. The examination period is four hours. The examination includes a section of identifications and either two or three essays based on the MFA reading list. Your examination director will decide on the final format for the examination.