



## Comprehensive Exam for MS Students in Coursework Option

### General Information

Mechanical Engineering Master Students in the Coursework Option are required to pass a comprehensive exam before graduating. (This requirement does not apply to the other two MS Degree Options). The exam is typically administered by a faculty with whom the student took at least one course included in his/her Degree Plan. The examiner is assigned by the Director of Graduate Studies, but the student has an opportunity to provide suggestions when submitting the Comprehensive Exam Request Form.

### Scheduling Comprehensive Exam

- Students who intend to graduate during a long semester should submit their request by the 15<sup>th</sup> day of class, in the semester of graduation.
  - For summer graduates, students should submit a request by April 15<sup>th</sup> (or the next business day if the date falls on a weekend).
- The examiner will be selected based on the student record and the information provided in the form.
- After the student has been notified of the examiner selection, it is the student's responsibility to coordinate with the chosen professor to schedule a date, time, and place to take the exam.
- Students who do not pass the Comprehensive Exam by the deadline will not be able to graduate that term and will need to enroll in the following semester.

### Comprehensive Exam Format and Requirements

- The exam is written, open books and notes, and lasts approximately 2 ½ hours
- The exam is based on graduate courses completed by the student; it can include problems related to individual courses and also questions that require a synthesis of knowledge from different areas of mechanical engineering science.
- The student should discuss the exam scope and format with the examiner in advance, and reserve sufficient time for preparation and review of the material.

### Submission of the Comprehensive Exam Results

- The Comprehensive Exam should take place prior to the Graduate School deadline, during the semester of graduation. Consult the Graduate School Academic Calendar for important dates and deadlines.
- To report the outcome of the Comprehensive Exam, a Report on Comprehensive Exam Form needs to be completed. The professor who administered the exam will submit the signed form to Graduate School. A copy of the form also needs to be submitted to Rene Fuentes at [rene.fuentes@ttu.edu](mailto:rene.fuentes@ttu.edu) or in ME Office 104.
  - The form is available at:  
[http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/media/Comprehensive%20Exam%20Report%20\(Non-Thesis%20Option%20Only\).pdf](http://www.depts.ttu.edu/gradschool/media/Comprehensive%20Exam%20Report%20(Non-Thesis%20Option%20Only).pdf)