

Potential format for written exam:

Note that the format proposed here largely parallels the format of the GMB program written exam (as of February 2022) and focuses on the student's ability to read and understand published articles. The exam is designed to test comprehension, ability to evaluate and interpret data, synthesize results, formulate hypotheses, and devise tests of hypotheses.

Timing

The recommended timing is to take the written exam during the spring semester of the student's second year. This will follow the organization committee meeting held during the previous fall semester.

Format of the Written Exam

Students in consultation with their graduate committees will decide upon three topic areas for their exam. The committee will distribute these areas across its members (keeping in mind the position of committee chair entails some additional administrative burden coordinating this exam). For each topic a reading list will be assembled, typically 3-4 articles. These lists will be distributed to students two weeks before the exam. Students should spend this two-week period reading the articles and any background and ancillary material they deem necessary. Students may discuss the articles with one another and with colleagues, but they should not approach committee members with questions.

To ensure fairness, students taking the exam may not consult any other previous copies of the exam, whether obtained from more senior students or by other means.

Suggested timing of the exam is as follows: Questions are distributed by Sakai at 9:00 am on a Thursday two weeks after reading lists were distributed. Answers must be returned by email by 4:00 pm the following day (Friday). Each section will list what resources students may use to complete that section. This may range from just the assigned articles and their notes to anything on the internet. However, students may not consult one another or any other individuals during the exam period.