

Qualifying Examination

The qualifying examination consists of a written exam and e-portfolio completed in the first semester of the second year of the DELEJ program, in EDD 720: Qualifying Examination and Dissertation Proposal Preparation and Defense. The qualifying exam paper is a cumulative representation of the student's work, reflecting major themes and topics of the program. The e-portfolio contains evidence of student work in the DELEJ program in order to demonstrate students' facility with drawing connections across courses and with examining issues of equity and justice in educational institutions, as well as students' narrative reflections of learning and growth.

Qualifying Exam Prompt

Identify and discuss a problem of practice that you would like to investigate through your dissertation study. Describe the context in which the problem is situated and discuss the significance of the problem in relation to the educational context and communities it affects. Describe how this issue relates to local community, school, district, and/or college or university needs, particularly with respect to equity and social justice. Explore, critique, and synthesize how this topic has been conceptualized and researched using various perspectives. Draw from the work you have done throughout the DELEJ program.

	Missing	Developing	Meets Expectations	Exceeds Expectations
Identify and discuss a problem of practice that you would like to investigate through your dissertation study.	No problem is defined.	The problem is described with limited detail, and the content shows limited understanding of the problem.	The problem is described with adequate detail, and the content shows an understanding of the problem.	The problem is thoroughly described and content shows an in-depth understanding of the problem.
Describe the context in which the problem is situated and discuss the significance of the problem in relation to the educational context and communities it affects.	No context is included.	The context of the problem is not adequately detailed. There is limited discussion of how the problem affects educational communities.	Attention is given to the context of the problem and how that shapes the problem. There is insightful discussion of how the problem affects educational communities.	There is significant attention to the context of the problem and how that shapes the problem. There is insightful discussion of how the problem affects educational communities.

Describe how this issue relates to local community, school, and/or district needs, particularly with respect to equity and social justice.	One or more of these components is missing or not addressed.	The problem is defined in a limited way and may not explore the complexities of the problem or challenge conventional perceptions and beliefs. Limited connections are made between the problem and the needs of the context or community. There is limited connection to issues of equity or justice.	The problem is defined in from multiple perspectives and with adequate attention to context. The paper adequately explores the complexities of the problem and challenges conventional perceptions and beliefs. Clear connections are made between the problem and the needs of the context or community. Issues of equity or justice are identified and discussed.	The problem is defined using multiple perspectives to explore the complexities of the problem and challenges conventional perceptions and beliefs. Thoughtful, comprehensive connections are made between the problem and the needs of the context or community. Issues of equity or justice are identified and discussed in detail.
Explore, critique, and synthesize how this topic has been conceptualized and researched using various perspectives.	One or more of these components is missing or not addressed.	The problem is not fully situated in the existing literature, and existing understanding is not synthesized. The breadth and depth of information may be inaccurate and may not be current or representative. Multiple perspectives are not included.	The problem is situated in the existing literature, and existing understanding is synthesized. The breadth and depth of information is accurate and mostly current and representative. Multiple perspectives are included, but may not be comprehensive.	The problem is well-situated in the existing literature, and there is a clear synthesis of existing knowledge. The breadth and depth of information is accurate, representative, and current. Multiple perspectives are included.

Draw from the work you have done throughout the DELEJ program.	The student does not draw on the work they have completed in the DELEJ program.	The student does not draw on the work they have completed in the DELEJ program in a meaningful way. Student growth and learning may or may not be apparent or connected to the students' discussion of the problem of practice.	The student draws on the work they have completed in the DELEJ program in a meaningful way. Student growth and learning is apparent and connected to the students' discussion of the problem of practice.	The student draws on the work they have completed in the DELEJ program in a significant and meaningful way. Student growth and learning is apparent and connected to the students' discussion of the problem of practice.
Writing Conventions	The writing is not clear and organized. The project may not adhere to standard conventions of grammar, academic writing, and/or professional presentation.	The writing is somewhat clear and organized. The project sometimes adheres to standard conventions of grammar, academic writing, and professional presentation.	The writing is mostly clear and organized. The project mostly adheres to standard conventions of grammar, academic writing, and professional presentation.	The writing is clear, organized, and adheres to standard conventions of grammar, academic writing, and professional presentation.
Formatting	APA format is not used. Does not use anti-bias language.	There are many formatting errors. Inconsistently uses APA style conventions to reduce bias in language	There are a few formatting errors. Generally adheres to APA style conventions to reduce bias in language	APA style is used correctly throughout. Consistently adheres to APA style conventions to reduce bias in language