

PADM601 Research Project

PADM601 is a required course for all MPA students. It is accomplished through an individualized plan for revising and enhancing a previously submitted term paper with the advice and guidance of the chair of his/her comprehensive oral examination chair. Two major tasks must be accomplished:

1. selecting a paper submitted for a course requirement in any of the PADM courses already completed, and
2. revising and enhancing that paper for presentation as part of the comprehensive oral exam.

Typical revisions and enhancements include:

- technical writing improvements
 - grammar, spelling and punctuation
 - organization and flow of the paper
 - proper APA style citations
- updating the content of the paper
- enhancing the evidentiary base of the paper
- elaboration on specific points made in the paper
- revising some of the basic elements of the paper

The specific revisions and enhancements required of any student will be established by the chair of the comprehensive oral exam in a meeting with the student. That meeting should take place no later than the second week of the quarter in which the student hopes to take the final comprehensive oral exam.

The student will also be required to prepare a presentation of the paper for the comprehensive oral exam. It is up to the student to decide whether to use PowerPoint, overheads, or any other visual aids in presenting the paper.

No matter what quarter the student enrolls in PADM601, a grade for that course will be submitted only after completion of the comprehensive oral exam.

A Brief Note on the Thesis Option

Students may select to do an 8-credit thesis instead of the 2-credit research project. The thesis will be a significant research paper with a substantial literature review and an original analysis of primary or secondary data. Details of what is expected will be worked out between the student and the chair of the oral exam committee.

In the required course of study for completing the degree, 2 credits of the thesis will substitute for the usual 2-credit research project. The other 6 credits will count as electives.

In the comprehensive oral examination, presentation of the thesis will take the place of the presentation of the research project.