

MS in National Security Affairs and International Relations

Tabletop Comprehensive Exam Guidelines

Format:

The comprehensive examination is designed to assess whether students have reached a sufficient level of understanding of core concepts and frameworks of analysis emphasized in National Security Affairs and International Relations to graduate from the program. Answers must be well thought out, organized and rooted in material from appropriate core and elective courses in the program. Students are expected to demonstrate familiarity with and understanding appropriate scholarships in the field of National Security Affairs and International Relations.

The examination is divided into two sections, each to be completed in separate twenty-four-hour periods. Section one contains a tabletop exercise involving a national security challenge faced by the United States, which students will address in a three-part, sequenced essay format. Section two contains a tabletop exercise involving some aspect of international relations, which once again students will address in a three-part, sequenced essay format. Depending on the nature of the scenario, students will employ appropriate reasoning and analysis from a range of disciplines employed in core and elective courses in the program (e.g. ethics, history, cyber security, international law, civil liberties, etc.).

Parameters of the Exam:

Comprehensive exams for graduating students are held on designated weekends at the end of each semester. The

Receiving Exam Results:

Students will receive written email notification of results via their **NSU** email account.

Examination Eligibility:

Students in their final semester of coursework will be invited to sit the exam. Only eligible students will be permitted to sit the exam. Eligibility is determined both academically and financially.

Academic Eligibility:

All coursework must be satisfactorily completed before the examination, and you must be in good academic standing. (See the Halmos handbook.)

- You may not be on academic probation and sit for the exam.
- You may not have more than one C without having retaken the course and earned a satisfactory grade.
- You must have a B average (3.0 or higher.)
- If you have any outstanding "Incomplete" grades from previous semesters, you will not be eligible to take the examination.

Financial eligibility: