

PCC PH.D. GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

The following goals should be understood in the context of an overarching commitment to the cultivation of creative vitality and spiritual insight.

Goal 1

Pursue scholarly inquiry and engaging ideas from a transdisciplinary perspective, including a sufficient mastery in depth of at least one subject area, with an eye to the paradigmatic assumptions and implications for the transformation of culture and society at large.

Objective 1: Present the research and ideas that will form the basis of the dissertation in a well-organized and persuasive public lecture to the PCC community of faculty and students.

Objective 2: Write term papers that will be assessed in terms of stylistic as well as scholarly excellence. Philosophy, Cosmology, and Consciousness Program Handbook, Academic Years 11-12

Objective 3: Produce a dissertation as a substantial and original contribution to scholarship that will be reviewed and certified as such by two PCC faculty members and one outside member with recognized standing in the relevant field(s). Dissertation is not to exceed 250 pages.

Goal 2

Comprehend the broad outlines of the evolution of Western thought and be conversant with the principal ideas and themes of major figures of Western intellectual and spiritual history from classical antiquity to the postmodern era, so as to have a basic understanding of the origins of the currently dominant cultural world view and its relation to the challenges of our moment.

Objective 1: Pass two comprehensive exams, one of which will demonstrate comprehension of principal ideas and themes in the development of Western thought as reflected in the PCC Canon (available in PCC office or on MyCIIS, www.my.ciis.edu, on the PCC Program Page).

Objective 2: Demonstrate a competent familiarity with the relevant elements of the history of Western thought in the formal treatment of the dissertation topic. Engage in cooperative dialogical inquiry, listening sensitively as well as articulating effectively in a spirit of heartfelt and rigorous collaborative learning.

Objective 1: Demonstrate dialogical abilities in advanced seminars through participation in and guidance of class discussions.

Objective 2: Demonstrate dialogical abilities at a public presentation to the PCC community of faculty and students, and again in the discussion period of the dissertation oral defense.

Write with intellectual clarity at a high level of scholarly competence, stylistic precision, and rhetorical persuasiveness.

Objective 1: Write term papers that will be assessed in terms of stylistic as well as scholarly excellence.

Objective 2: Produce a dissertation of publishable quality with respect to form as well as content.

Two Comprehensive Examinations— 0 units (flat fee)

Comprehensive Examinations (0 units)

To advance to the proposal writing phase of the doctoral course of study, a student is required to take two exams: the **PCC General Comprehensive Exam** and the **Specialized Comprehensive Exam**. The standard format for both exams consists of an annotated bibliography along with an essay that forms the basis for a dialogue between the student and the faculty mentor. Normally a student will take both exams with the dissertation mentor; in consultation with the dissertation mentor and program director, the second exam may be taken with a CIIS faculty member outside of PCC.

Ideally, all other coursework must be completed (though it is possible to do one of the examinations concurrently with a last course).

The **PCC General Comprehensive Exam** consists of a 25-30 page essay and a one hour oral exam. The essay draws from the PCC canon and other relevant sources and speaks to the first and second of the PCC Ph.D. learning goals . To this end, the student will propose and discuss with his/her mentor an initial list of 20-30 thematically organized texts and the rationale for the selected texts. The student will focus significantly on a limited number of texts in the written exam, but will be held responsible in the oral exam for the full set of texts previously approved. The oral exam will be evaluated by the dissertation mentor and the PCC Program Chair, and is attended only by the student, mentor, and Program Chair.

The **Specialized Comprehensive Exam** is based upon the area or areas determined to be most relevant to the anticipated dissertation topic. It consists of a 25-30 page essay based on approximately 20 sources and demonstrating that the student can creatively engage with the selected texts. In preparation for the specialized comprehensive exam, the student will read:

1. Montuori, Alfonso, "Literature Review as Creative Inquiry: Reframing Scholarship as a Creative Process."
2. Patten, Mildred, "Writing Literature Reviews."

The specialized comprehensive exam will be evaluated by the dissertation mentor, with whom the student meets after completing the exam.