Masters in Logistics, Trade and Transportation  
Comprehensive Exam Guidelines

**Purpose:** Master of Science in Logistics Trade and Transportation (MS LTT) comprehensive exam is designed to test the students’ broad understanding of its program objectives. MS LTT graduates are expected to show their proficiencies by passing this exam demonstrating their ability to integrating core competencies to solve real life problems.

**Objectives:** The comprehensive exam questions are based on the programs five Learning Outcomes/Objectives.

1. MS LTT students will be able to effectively perform **planning and strategies** tasks.
2. MS LTT students will have the critical skills necessary in **operations, management and leadership**.
3. MS LTT students will be capable to perform **systems analysis** and develop **models**.
4. MS LTT students will have essential abilities in **transportation and trade policy**.
5. MS LTT students will be able to **integrate core competencies** to solve real world problems in their domain.

**When:** Students must successfully complete comprehensive examinations the semester that all coursework will be completed.

**Exam Schedule Setup Process:** Students must first send an e-mail to Dr. Tulio Sulbaran at Tulio.Sulbaran@usm.edu requesting to schedule comprehensive exam. The e-mail from the student must contain:
   1. Student Full Name,
   2. Student USM ID,
   3. Three preferred days to take the exam

The due dates for the student to send the email to schedule the comprehensive exam and the timeframe in which the student must take the comprehensive exam are provided below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduating Semester</th>
<th>E-mail to Schedule comprehensive Exam</th>
<th>Timeframe to Take the Comprehensive Exam</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Spring</strong></td>
<td>From January 15th till February 15th</td>
<td>From March 15th till April 15th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summer</strong></td>
<td>From May 15th till June 15th</td>
<td>From July 1st till July 15th</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Fall</strong></td>
<td>From August 15th till September 15th</td>
<td>From October 15th till November 15th</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Dr. Sulbaran will coordinate with students and confirm the days that the students will take the comprehensive exam.

August 2012
**Exam Module Setup Process:** After receiving confirmation of the day to take the comprehensive exam, students need to select 4 modules out of 6 available modules and send an e-mail to Dr. MD Sarder at md.sarder@usm.edu with the module information. Students can choose any 4 modules of their choices except the modules (courses) they are enrolled in their last/current semester. This email must be sent within a week of schedule setting. Following is the list of available modules.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Number</th>
<th>Corresponding Course</th>
<th>Exam Part</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>IET 672</td>
<td>Part I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>IET 671</td>
<td>Part I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>IET 670</td>
<td>Part I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>IET 615</td>
<td>Part I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>IET 571</td>
<td>Part I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>IET 570</td>
<td>Part I &amp; II</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Exam Access & Completion:** All exam modules are password restricted and available only during the exam timeframe. Dr. Sarder will send exam passwords to individual students one day before the scheduled exam day.

Remember – these individual and module specific passwords will give student access to the modules chosen by the students only during the comprehensive exam days.

After receiving access to the comprehensive exam, the student must complete Part I for all 4 modules selected within that day. The student might take another day (next day) to complete Part II for all modules.

**Exam Duration:** The comprehensive exam could be completed in one day but students could request to complete the Part II on the day following the completion of Part I.

**Exam Format:** As mentioned earlier that the comprehensive exam has 4 modules that are selected by the student and each module consists of two parts: Part I and Part II. Part I worth 50 points and it may include multiple choice questions and true-false questions. Part II worth 50 points and it includes 4 to 5 descriptive questions (20 points) and 1 to 2 analytical questions (30 points). Part I is a timed (30 minutes) exam with closed book and closed notes. Part II is a take home exam with open books and open notes.

For Part II, provide your responses in a Word or pdf document. Save the document using your name in the title (Example: firstname_lastname_LTT Comps). E-mail the document to md.sarder@usm.edu.

*Read through the entire exam before you begin. The Part II will take you more time to complete than Part I. We expect that you should be able to finish Part I of all 4 modules within 2 hours. You also should be able to finish Part II of all 4 modules in about 2 to 5*
hours. Budget your time accordingly – you have only a day (next day as well for Part IIIs) to complete the exam. All work must be done independently.

**Scoring the Comprehensive Examination:** Students are required to answer all four modules and all questions within the module. To pass the exam, they must have to score a total of 280 out of 400 (4 modules). Students will be notified by Dr. Sulbaran about their exam results within the last week of the semester.

**What are the possible comprehensive examination outcomes?** Students will receive one of two scores: Pass; or Fail.

**What happen if the Student does not pass the Comprehensive Exam?** Students who take the exam and do not pass during the semester of anticipated graduation will not be allowed to graduate, as they will be required to retake the exam the following semester.

**Can examination be repeated?** If students fail the comp exam, they are not allowed to retake the comp exam in the same semester. Students will be required to retake the exam the following semester. Students taking the comp exam for the second time must pass in order to complete degree requirements.

**Exam Preparation:** The comprehensive examination assumes as common background the material covered in core courses. Successful exams will contain well-written, well-argued essays in which the student is able to cite important work, as well as synthesize, analyze, and draw independent conclusions about the work in question. Students should review course texts and notes along with any posted readings in preparation for the exam. Students may also contact The University of Southern Mississippi Writing Center at 601. 266.4821 Or http://www.usm.edu/writingcenter/ for writing assistance.

You must answer each of the questions in a legible and well-organized manner.

- read the questions carefully
- answer the question that is posed
- define terms
- explain the key concepts involved
- use specific examples
- show your works for partial points

Feel free to draw from class lectures, websites, recent articles, and other sources. Simple one sentence answers are not acceptable; you must support your position with evidence and concepts from your classes and readings. Don't just write your opinion, but be sure to back up your answer.