

Northern Arizona University Educational Leadership

LAW Comprehensive Examination

Study Guide

Below are some general guidelines to help prepare for the written examination for the LAW Comprehensive Exam.

- This is a comprehensive examination- students need to demonstrate a culmination of their learning in the NAU Doctoral Program.
- Grading will be based on content (e.g., accuracy and thoroughness and integration of information) as well as presentation and form (e.g., written clearly, good grammar and spelling).
- Students are expected to appropriately cite different scholarly sources. Full references will not have to be memorized, only name and date of citation will be needed (e.g., “Baker, (2008)”).
- Make sure you completely and thoughtfully answer all questions. It is recommended that students utilize headings and sub-headings to add clarity and organization to their responses.
- Make sure responses are thorough and are “deep”. Shallow or surface level responses are not appropriate. You need to show us that you are pointed in the right direction and thinking about taking what you learned “to the next level.”
- Begin preparing for your examination early. Dedicate considerable time for studying.

Study Guidelines

- 1) Review major case law from Masters and Doctoral courses, but be prepared to work with/address/integrate a variety of impactful sources including mandates and policy.
- 2) Reflect on the nature of decisions, their impacts on education, and your understanding and potential agreement or disagreement with the same.
- 3) Be prepared to consider these implications from a broad set of lenses including Political – Financial – Ethical and Community vantage points.
- 4) Reflect on the current, past and potential future implications of these decisions, and how they could interact with future policy decisions and actions.
- 5) Revisit thoughts, exercises and experiences going beyond “following the law” and be prepared to integrate your understanding and ability to address competing needs and legalities in a practical/applicable manner.