Enrollment Requirements:
1. A student must have completed 36 graduate credits before enrolling in CMST 651 - Comprehensive Exams.

Procedure:
1. At least eight (8) weeks prior to the anticipated exam date, a student will notify the advisor and department capstone committee members of intent to take the comprehensive exam.
2. The committee will prepare three questions for the exam. The questions will relate to the student’s program of study and capstone project. The questions will address the following areas:
   - Q1: Communication theory relating to the program of study.
   - Q2: Research methods relating to the anticipated capstone project.
   - Q3: Specialized content area relating to the anticipated capstone project.
3. A student will be given the three questions and have 168 hours (7 days) to answer all three questions. The committee may impose specific restrictions (e.g., page length, word length, sources).

Evaluation:
1. The advisor and department capstone committee member(s) will evaluate the answers.
2. Each question will be evaluated Pass/No Pass.
   a. A Pass means the student has successfully met the expectations for the question.
   b. A No Pass means the answer did not meet expectations and must be rewritten or supplemented to correct deficiencies.
      i. Rewrites will be done with guidance from your committee.
      ii. The committee will determine the nature and scope of a rewrite.
      iii. A rewrite must be completed the semester a student is taking CMST 651.
      iv. Receiving a No Pass on any rewritten question will require retaking CMST 651.
      v. CMST 651 may only be retaken once. A No Pass on any of the questions required when retaking CMST 651 will result in a student failing the course and the student will not be eligible to earn the MFA-Forensics degree.

Preparation:
1. The nature and content of the questions is determined by the advisor and department capstone committee members. The committee may, at their discretion, consult with the student or other faculty members when developing the questions.
2. The student has the responsibility to contact the advisor and committee members to determine how to best prepare for the exam. The student should make sure he/she has a clear understanding of what is expected on the exam.