

Learning Goal # 2: Students Must Demonstrate a Depth and Breadth  
of Field Specific Knowledge

**Learning Goal:** Students must demonstrate that they are competent in the core subject material in their chosen area of study.

**Measurement of Goal:** This can be assessed from the second year candidacy exam which includes the student's second year paper. This can also be assessed from dissertation proposal defenses and final defenses.

**Procedure:** The following items will be used to assess student knowledge within their discipline.

- A. Student understands basic concepts and theories within their field
- B. Student is familiar with widely used methodologies within their field
- C. Student demonstrates familiarity with the literature within their field
- D. Student recognizes where research is relevant in practice

**Frequency and Collection:** For this learning goal, data are collected on a continuous basis. The Ph.D. candidacy exam, dissertation proposal defenses, and final defenses are all opportunities to conduct this assessment. Presentations of the second year papers, which are part of the candidacy exam, typically happen in early September prior to the third year of study. Proposal defenses and final defenses are spread throughout the year and typically occur in the fourth and fifth year of the program. Our initial data for this learning goal will be collected in the summer of 2009.