**Preliminary Recommendation from GPC- November 2013**

**Policy Regarding Comprehensive Examination and Other Culminating Experiences**

Every graduate degree program concludes with a mandatory culminating experience which requires candidates to synthesize and apply knowledge acquired throughout the program. Each program determines the type of culminating experience which may include, but is not limited to, comprehensive exams, a thesis, or a capstone project. Students must meet department specific eligibility requirements before registering for the culminating experience.

Each program will provide its students with a written description of its culminating experience, including eligibility, grading standards, procedures for evaluating the experience and policies for students who are unsuccessful on their initial attempt to complete their culminating experience. These policies must be posted on the Department/Program website.

Students who are unsuccessful in completing their culminating experience may appeal the outcome as per the Graduate Student Complaint/Appeals Policy (see TCNJ Policy Manual). If the candidate is unsuccessful in the appeal process the candidate will be dismissed from the program.

Candidates who are unable to schedule and successfully complete their culminating experience during their 6 year window must consult with the graduate program coordinator. If the next offering is beyond the student’s 6-year limit to program completion, please see policy on Program Completion Limit and Retention Standards.