

Ph.D. Degree Requirements and Schedules

A doctoral student begins working towards the doctoral degree upon matriculation in the GPGS. With the successful defense of the dissertation prospectus, typically in the third semester, the graduate student is considered a doctoral candidate.

The general requirements for completing the Ph.D. are a period of enrollment, and the writing and defense of a satisfactory dissertation that is subsequently accepted by the dissertation committee. No specified number of courses completed or credits earned will assure attainment of the doctorate. A doctoral program consists of a combination of course seminars and individual study and research that meets the minimum requirements of the GPGS and is approved by the doctoral committee for each individual student.

Students are expected to be enrolled for a minimum of three years in the GPGS, with a possible extension of enrollment of up to two years. Therefore, the maximum amount of time that students can be enrolled in the Ph.D. program is five years. Students can take a leave of absence for a maximum of five years (M.A. and Ph.D. in total) in order to complete the dissertation. Students who have completed all requirements except the dissertation can also request Withdrawal by Completion. The Request for Leave of Absence and Request for Withdrawal by Completion forms are available at the Academic Records Section, Center for Academic Affairs. Students should carefully discuss these options with their advisor.

Process

Step 1: Qualifying Exams

A doctoral student is examined for knowledge and training to research and write a dissertation. There are three kinds of qualifying exams: global studies, disciplinary, and language. The timing of the exams depends on the student's background and advisor's judgment but they are usually taken in the second or third semester.

Step 2: Dissertation Prospectus

Upon successful passage of the qualifying exams, a student develops a dissertation prospectus under the guidance of the advisor that is defended before the faculty.

Step 3: Research and Writing

Upon successful defense of the dissertation prospectus, the candidate is considered a doctoral candidate and embarks on researching and writing the dissertation. The candidate may choose, upon consultation with the advisor, to leave for extended fieldwork. (S/he must continue to pay full tuition until satisfying the three-year minimum enrollment requirement).

Step 4: Dissertation Defense

The dissertation is submitted by the end of the semester prior to the semester in which the candidate intends to defend the dissertation, and at least four months before the intended defense date.

Note: Detailed information about the Ph.D. degree is available on the GPGS website.