

PhD: Rhetoric and Writing

What follows is a general guideline for students to keep on track with their studies. Your path may vary. Some deadlines are flexible while others are not. Of special attention are Graduate Studies (GS) deadlines. Those are not flexible. Remember to check in with the department's staff advisor as you have questions. Once you form your Committee on Studies, they will serve a vital role in program advisement. They will also oversee your comprehensive examinations and form the core of your Dissertation Committee.

Year 1 - Fall, 1st Semester

- Take 530 if TA (required for all TA's 1st semester, all programs. If not TA'ing, not required)
- Begin thinking about 3 fields of study to write your comps in so you can begin taking coursework in those areas as much as possible
- Meet with faculty mentor. This person is assigned to you by the faculty and serves as mentor/advisor until you choose your Committee Chair. This is a collaborative dynamic, so take an active role in reaching out.
- Meet with English Graduate Advisor to look at progress sheets and go over any questions. ACGS will send approved master's transfer work to EGA to populate on progress sheet.

Year 1 - Spring, 2nd Semester

- Take 542 the first semester available. If not available this spring, should be offered next spring.
- Talk to faculty about starting to form Committee on Studies, COS
- Work with COS/Chair to begin building Individualized Reading Lists
- Begin thinking about first R&W Comprehensive Examination (see 'Summer' below for more detail)

Summer

-It is recommended that RW Comps are completed over the course of the 2nd and 3rd year. This is different from the standard, three-week format completed in February and September by the other PhD tracks. RW exams will typically be conducted as literature reviews. You will write and revise them in consultation with your COS. While each exam has an initial recommended deadline to keep you on track, the exams may be revised multiple times throughout the process. Considerations such as format, scope, length, style, etc. are the purview of your COS

-August of Year 1: Exam I recommended first draft completion. This first exam should be written within 3 months after the 1st year and can be revised throughout your 2nd year until it's time to turn in all three for your COS to grade. You will file an **Announcement of Exam** two weeks before you turn all three in, not now.

Year 2 - Fall, 3rd Semester

-Finalize COS and file **Appointment of COS** form if not done already (English Dept form)

-Recommendation to begin work on Exam II if not yet started

-Continue revisions on Exam I as needed

-Continue to build Individualized Reading List

Year 2 - Spring, 4th Semester

- Recommendation to begin work on Exam III if not yet started

-Continue revisions on Exams I & II as needed

-Visit with COS to discuss how coursework is meeting SLOs for Language Requirement

Summer

-August of Year 2: Exams II & III recommended completion.

Year 3 - Fall, 5th Semester

-Continue revisions on Exams I, II, & III. Recommended completion time is next February.

-Submit Individualized Reading Lists to ACGS the semester prior to exam submission. The signature sheet must have all approvals from all COS members.

-It is recommended all exams be completed by the end of 5th semester

Year 3 - Spring, 6th Semester

-Revisions for all exams should be completed by end of February, and final drafts turned in to all COS members for review

-Two weeks prior to exam submission, file an **Announcement of Exam** with GS. For date of exam, simply put the day you'll be turning in your completed packet with final drafts for all three exams.

-Within two weeks after exam submission, COS members will submit their decisions on a Report of Exam. Your COS Chair will initiate this.

-Once comps are passed, it's time to form your Dissertation Committee, write your Dissertation Prospectus, and file PhD Candidacy

--File **Application to Candidacy** form with GS once comps are passed

--Add a non-English Dept faculty member to your COS to form your DC

--Work with DC to write and submit a Dissertation Prospectus. Defend Prospectus no later than 6 months after passing comps. Committee Chair files completed **Dissertation Prospectus Defense** form (English Dept form) with ACGS

-File **Appointment of Dissertation Committee** form with English Graduate Office at least two weeks prior to Prospectus Defense

-Once enrolled in 699 Dissertation hours, continuous enrollment going forward required. A minimum of 18 hours of 699 will be required over the coming semesters. Dissertation hours are charged a flat rate.

Year 4 - Fall, 7th Semester

-Defend Dissertation Prospectus by August

-Begin writing dissertation in earnest if not yet started. PhD candidates also TA'ing can expect to take two years to complete their dissertation.

-Continuous enrollment in 699 (minimum 6 hours for TAs)

Year 4 - Spring, 8th Semester

-Continue work on dissertation

-Continuous enrollment in 699 (minimum 6 hours for TAs)

-Submit Annual Degree Evaluation and Progress by end of term (each spring once dissertation has started)

Year 5 - Fall, 9th Semester

-Continue work on dissertation

-Continuous enrollment in 699 (minimum 6 hours for TAs)

Year 5 - Spring, 10th Semester

-Continue work on dissertation

-Continuous enrollment in 699 (minimum 6 hours for TAs)

-Submit Annual Degree Evaluation and Progress by end of term

And so on until successfully defending dissertation and graduating!

Nearing Completion of Your Dissertation

You have 5 years after passing your comps and advancing to candidacy to complete your dissertation! As you get closer to completing it, begin discussions with your DC about when you expect it to be done and therefore when you expect to be able to defend.

When getting ready to defend dissertation, inform the English Graduate Advisor. Discuss your defense date with your DC. The EGA will schedule you a room and a time for your defense. Once settled, file **Announcement of Exam** with GS at least two weeks prior to defense. Defenses should be held by:

--Mid-March to early-April in order to meet April 15th hard deadline to have all paperwork to GS for a spring graduation

--Mid-June to early-July in order to meet July 15th hard deadline to have all paperwork to GS for a summer graduation

--Mid-September to early-November in order to meet November 15th hard deadline to have all paperwork to GS for a fall graduation

There is no petition for these 15th of the month final deadlines. Students who complete requirements after the deadline but before the end of that term can ask to invoke the GS Courtesy Policy. This means you don't have to register for classes the following term, but your graduation will be moved to that next term.