

Summary of credit and timescale requirements

Preliminary exam (Prelims)

- Students must have completed 24 credits of study (or be completing in the exam term)
- Students must have fulfilled the research methodology course requirement (6 credits)
- Students taking 12 credits per term should take the exam in the 1st year Spring Term; students taking 9 credits per term should take the exam in the 2nd year Fall Term;
- Part-time students should take the exam in the 2nd year Fall or 2nd year Spring Term
- Students must pass by the end of the 2nd Spring term (3rd Spring term for part-timers); failure to pass within the time limit will result in dismissal from the program
- Students may attempt the exam twice; failure at second attempt will result in dismissal
- Students may not register for dissertation credits until after passing the preliminary exam.

Comprehensive exam (Comps)

- Students must have completed 36 credits of study
- Students must have fulfilled the residency requirement (one term of full-time study)
- Students taking 9 or 12 credits per term should take the exam in the 2nd year Fall or Spring
- Part-time students should take the exam in the 3rd year Fall or Spring Term
- Students must pass within 18 months of passing Prelims (24 months for part-timers); failure to pass within the time limit will result in dismissal from program
- Students may attempt the exam twice; failure at second attempt will result in dismissal.

Proposal defense

- Students must have completed 54 credits of study (36 coursework, 18 dissertation)
- Students should defend their dissertation proposal within 18 months of passing Comps (24 months for part-timers)
- Students must successfully complete the defense within 24 months of passing Comps (36 months for part-timers); failure to defend within in the time limit will result in dismissal
- Dissertation proposal defense may not be scheduled in the same term as comps.

Dissertation defense

- All requirements for the PhD degree must be completed in not more than 6 calendar years from the time of first registration (or 8 calendar years for part-time students).

Registration requirement

- Students are required to engage in a minimum of one term of full-time doctoral study (defined as 9 or more graduate credits per term), which excludes other employment, except as approved by their departments.

Time limit

- Students must complete all requirements for the PhD in not more than 6 calendar years from the time of first registration (8 calendar years for part-time students).