

Time Table for PhD Completion

*****Please note, this is the IDEAL Timeline to degree*****

The National average to complete a PhD degree is 7 years.

Entered WITHOUT MA

End of First Year

- Topic for MA Thesis Determined
- Faculty Advisor/MA Committee formed
- Completed:
 - Social Theory
 - Three Methods Courses
 - Research Design, Qualitative & Quantitative
 - 2-4 other Seminar Courses

Second Year

- 1st Semester:
 - Work on Thesis Proposal
 - Present/Defend Proposal before Committee
 - If approved, continue with research, if not, work on thesis proposal.
- END OF YEAR: Defense/Completion of MA expected
- Completed:
 - 6-8 other Seminar Courses

Third Year

- DECEMBER:
 - Defense/Completion of MA REQUIRED
- Select Comprehensive Exam Committee
- END OF YEAR (August): Comps Paper Approval REQUIRED
 - Oral Comps Presentation
 - Define Dissertation Topic

Fourth Year

- Select Dissertation Committee
- Prepare Overview
- END OF YEAR: Defend Overview
 - If approved, be Admitted to Candidacy

Entered WITH MA

End of First Year

- Select Comprehensive Exam Committee REQUIRED
- END OF YEAR: Defend Comps Paper expected

Second Year

- AUGUST: Approved Comps Paper REQUIRED
- Oral Presentation of Comps
- Select Dissertation Committee
- Prepare Overview
- END OF YEAR: Defend Overview
 - If approved, be Admitted to Candidacy

Third Year

- Prepare Dissertation
- Defend Dissertation
- Graduate

Clarification on the Comps Oral Presentation-

Once the Comps paper is Approved, the Student must give an Oral Presentation of the paper sometime within that Academic year, usually the following April. Therefore the year of this presentation may vary from the timeline above.

Fifth Year & Beyond

- Prepare Dissertation
- Defend Dissertation
- Graduate

EX. Approved Comps paper in July 2012, Oral Presentation April 2

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