

Graduate Study Timeline

Years 1-2:

- Meet with your mentor and complete the First-Year Review of Course Work and Preliminary Rationale for Language Study forms.* Take a wide range of courses with an eye toward fulfilling requirements and shaping an intellectual profile by the end of the second year.
- Work on satisfying language requirements to ensure they are completed by the end of the second year but at least by the middle of the third year.
- During year two, begin the process of selecting orals fields and advisor, and drafting preliminary lists in your fields.
- Read professional journals, join professional societies, and stay alert to opportunities for converting seminar papers into abstracts for conference panels and essays for journals.
- Cultivate some exchange with faculty members in other departments (by taking courses, visiting office hours, or attending colloquia) to prepare for securing an outside member of your orals and dissertation committees.
- The second year culminates with the Second-Year Review.*
- One full semester before you intend to take the orals, you should submit for the approval of the Graduate Chair an English Department Application for the Ph.D. Oral Qualifying Examination, signed by the orals adviser, listing the two historical fields and a brief description of a third field.*

Year 3:

- Complete orals lists in conversation with orals advisor. Follow orals procedure.*
- Begin to shape a teaching profile through the pedagogy course and GSI appointment leading discussion sections. Use resources offered by [GSI Resource Center](#).
- Consider applying for the Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award.
- Take orals by the end of the year and try to participate in at least one professional conference (the Berkeley/Stanford Graduate Colloquium provides a user-friendly and accessible opportunity).
- Submit [the Advancement to Candidacy eForm](#) using CalCentral for the Graduate Division.*

Year 4:

- Draft the prospectus during the prospectus workshop in the fall and hold the prospectus conference by early spring semester. Receive [prospectus approval](#) from Graduate Chair and [prospectus conference approval](#) from your dissertation committee.

- Begin drafting a dissertation chapter in the spring.
- If you have not already taken advantage of the publication workshop, submit a chapter or essay to it now with the goal of circulating it for publication.
- Participate in a second professional conference.
- Continue to develop a teaching profile by teaching Reading and Composition. Make sure to ask the R&C Chair to write and keep on file a teaching letter based on the observation of your class.
- Consider applying for the Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award (and reapply in subsequent years).
- [Apply for internal and external dissertation fellowships.](#)

Year 5:

- Complete at least two dissertation chapters.
- Continue to develop a teaching profile and apply for the Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor award.
- Participate in a third professional conference.
- Aim to have at least one paper accepted for publication (ideally in print) and another in circulation by the end of the year. Apply for internal and external dissertation fellowships.

Year 6:

- Enter the job market and apply for postdoctoral fellowships.
- Complete at least two more dissertation chapters.
- Continue to develop teaching profile and apply for the Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor award.
- Aim to have two essays in print by the end of the year.
- Apply for internal and external dissertation fellowships.

Year 7:

- Participate in the job market and apply for postdoctoral fellowships.
- Be ready to [file the dissertation.](#)
- Continue to shape professional profile through conferences, publications, teaching, and plans to begin revising the dissertation as a book.