

## Graduate Student Mentoring and Degree Timeline

### *Pairing Students with Mentors*

A successful mentoring program depends upon the quality of the mentor-student pairing. In order to maximize the probability of a successful pairing, the mentor and mentoring team selection process will be as follows:

1. Designation of the student's primary field of study

--Students must indicate a "field of specialization" on their application for admission to the graduate program, so in most cases designation of a student's primary field will be based on self-identification. In those instances where students indicate a field of specialization that is not an identifiable field—some simply put "government and politics"—the Admissions committee will identify a primary field based on the student's statement of purpose.

2. Mentor selection

--The Director of Graduate Studies (hereafter, DGS) will select—in consultation with the relevant field coordinator—one mentor for each incoming student from the student's primary field. Whenever possible, the DGS will accommodate (1) faculty requests to advise a specific student and (2) student requests to work with a particular faculty mentor. If at any point during the student's matriculation either the faculty member *or* the student wishes to end the mentoring relationship, the DGS—in consultation with the student and the relevant field coordinator—will select a replacement mentor. Given the limitations inherent in the initial selection, some turnover is to be expected.

### *Timeline of Activities*

1. First year

- a. In advance of initial matriculation:

- i. Meet with mentor to discuss research interests and course offerings.
    - ii. Develop a tentative schedule for completing departmental and major and minor field requirements.

- b. First semester

- i. Complete one or more departmental requirements.
    - ii. Complete one field core.

c. Second semester

- i. Complete one or more departmental requirements
- ii. Complete second field core
- iii. Take one (or more) upper level courses in major/minor field.
- iv. Identify second mentorship committee member. If student is planning to complete a self-designed secondary field, this second member must be from the self-designed field.
- v. Meet with mentorship committee to discuss progress. After meeting with the mentor, the mentor will submit a short evaluation of student progress with suggestions for improvement (when necessary).

2. Second year

a. First semester

- i. Complete core requirements for both primary and secondary fields (if not already done).
- ii. Complete departmental requirements (if not already done).
- iii. Take one (or more) upper level courses in major/minor field.

b. Second semester

- i. Complete any remaining departmental or field core requirements.
- ii. Take two upper level courses in major/minor field.
- iii. Choose a third member for the mentorship committee (either from student's primary or secondary field—depending upon the field of the second member of the mentorship committee).
- iv. Meet with mentorship committee to discuss progress. After meeting, the mentor will submit a short evaluation of student progress with suggestions for improvement (when necessary). Mentor should sign-off on scholarly paper requirement by this time.

3. Summer immediately prior to the beginning of the third year—Pass comprehensive exam in one field.
4. Third Year
  - a. First semester
    - i. Complete primary or secondary field course requirements.
    - ii. Take an elective course. This might be a methods course.
    - iii. If passed primary field exam during previous summer, hold pre-proposal meeting.
    - iv. If appropriate, prepare fellowship/funding applications for fieldwork.
  - b. January—Pass comprehensive exam in additional field.
  - c. Second semester
    - i. Complete any remaining course requirements.
    - ii. Take an elective course. This might be a methods course.
    - iii. Defend dissertation prospectus.
    - iv. Discuss progress with mentorship committee.
5. Summer immediately prior to the beginning of the fourth year—Pass remaining comprehensive exam (if not already done).
6. Fourth year\*
  - a. First semester
    - i. Defend prospectus (if not already done).
    - ii. Work on dissertation.
  - b. Second semester
    - i. Work on dissertation

7. Fifth year
  - a. First semester
    - i. Work on dissertation
    - ii. Conduct job search
  - b. Second semester
    - i. Defend dissertation
    - ii. Get job.

\* For students on funded fieldwork, the program clock will stop. So, if a student has a fellowship for a year of fieldwork in what would normally be that student's fourth year in the program, the student will be expected to complete the fourth-year milestones during the fifth year and so on. Students may defer departmental funding commitments for the semester or year during which they are completing externally-funded fieldwork.