

PhD Progress Policy

1. The Preliminary Exam must be taken within the first year of admission to the program.
2. If an admitted Ph.D. student should fail to register for a graduate course for three consecutive semesters or more, he/she must reapply to the program. The faculty will make a determination about allowing that student to continue and, depending on the length of time the student has been inactive, determine what remedial steps the student must take if accepted back into the program.
3. The student must be continuously enrolled, and earn credit for the course(s), in the fall and spring semesters upon completing the coursework on the student's Program of Study until such time that the student has graduated or the student declares intentions to formally withdraw from the program.
4. The Comprehensive Examination should be taken at the end of the student's program of study, but must be taken within 1 year after completing the student's coursework.
5. The Qualifying Examination (dissertation proposal) should be completed within 1 year of passing the comprehensive exam.
6. The student has five years after the qualifying exam to complete and defend his/her dissertation.
7. If the student fails to meet any of these stipulations, the student is disqualified from the Ph.D. program. The student may petition the faculty for extra consideration, especially with respect to the Qualifying Exam. The faculty has the right to deny the petition.