

The Pennsylvania State University, PhD Program						
Recommended Academic Plan (Effective Fall 2016)						
FALL				SPRING		
Critical Dates	Semester 1	Credits	Critical Dates	Semester 2	Credits	Critical Dates
before the start of Semester 1: Diagnostic Interview	ARCH 512A: Doctoral Research Theory Graduate Elective (selected with adviser) Graduate Elective (selected with adviser) Total Credits: 9	3 3 3	before the start of Semester 2: Qualifying Exam	ARCH 512 B: Doctoral Research Design Graduate Elective (selected with adviser) Graduate Elective (selected with adviser) Total Credits: 9	3 3 3	March 15: "Academic Progress Report for Ph.D. Students" submitted April 1: Committee Members selected
Critical Dates	Semester 3		Critical Dates	Semester 4		Critical Dates
before the start of Semester 3: Comprehensive Exam recommended	Dissertation 601/611	NC	Semester end: Presentation of research progress to Committee Members	Dissertation 601/611	NC	March 15: "Academic Progress Report for Ph.D. Students" submitted to Graduate Assistant
Critical Dates	Semester 5		Critical Dates	Semester 6		Critical Dates
	Dissertation 601/611	NC	Semester end: Presentation of research progress to Committee Members	Dissertation 601/611 (Total Dissertation Credits: 12)	NC	March 15: "Academic Progress Report for Ph.D. Students" submitted to Graduate Assistant
Graduate Electives						
All graduate electives must be selected in consultation with the adviser.						
At least one graduate elective must address advanced research methods directly related to the proposed dissertation research.						
Qualifying Exam:						
The qualifying examination will be administered by the PhD Affairs Committee. It will review a) the student's post-professional Master's thesis; b) selected graduate papers written by the student; c) the student's statement regarding the general direction of the student's research interests and possible areas of dissertation inquiry; d) completed graduate courses; e) transcripts. The student must submit all items a-e no later than August 1st before starting Semester 1.						
The PhD Affairs Committee will administer a diagnostic interview with the student prior to Semester 1. If the PhD Affairs Committee approves the submitted material a-e, then the thesis, the appropriate theoretical/methodological coursework undertaken in the Master's program, and the diagnostic interview will count as completion of the qualifying exam.						
If not approved, or the student did not complete a thesis for their post-professional Masters degree, appropriate course-work will be assigned by the adviser and PhD Affairs Committee. The qualifying exam, in this case, will be conducted by the PhD Affairs Committee prior to the beginning of Semester 2. The qualifying exam will consist of a written and oral portion evaluating the student's breadth and knowledge on the course-work taken in Semester 1.						
If the Qualifying Exam is not satisfactorily completed by the beginning of Semester 2 the student could retake the exam (conducted by the PhD Affairs Committee) for the last time before the end of Semester 2. Not satisfactorily completing the Qualifying Exam by the end on Semester 2 will necessitate the removal of the student from the doctoral student roster.						
Forming the Doctoral Committee:						
No later than April 1 (and after successful completion of the qualifying exam) the student will form a doctoral committee consisting of at least four members of the University Graduate Faculty. In accordance with Graduate School regulations, at least two members of the committee must be in the major field, one member must represent a field outside the major, and one member must be in a different administrative unit. The student must submit a form to the Graduate Office establishing the committee. The student should meet periodically with the assembled committee, which will assist in the development of a coordinated program and in the preparation for the comprehensive exam.						
Comprehensive Exam:						
The Comprehensive Exam shall be organized by the student's doctoral committee, and concluded before the start of Semester 3. The exam will be filed with the Stuckeman PhD Affairs Committee. Exams should be scheduled through the graduate office by filing an Exam Request Form.						
The Comprehensive Exam consists of a written part to be administered first and then an oral part to be administered no more than a month after completion of the written portion of the exam. The Comprehensive Exam will include the preparation of a detailed dissertation Research Proposal by the student, including the proposed research objectives and statement of the research problem, relevant literature, description of methods of analysis and/or experimentation, significant results expected from the research and their impact on the current state of the art in the main research area, and time schedule. Additionally, the student should demonstrate competency in the field and core knowledge in the chosen area of concentration, as well as of major theoretical and methodological issues in the research area, and where those theories and methods stand in relation to major themes in contemporary scholarship. Such abilities can be validated via the preparation of a thorough literature review and methods section of the proposal or through essays in response to questions submitted by the Doctoral Committee members. The specific format and content of the Comprehensive Exam is defined by the Doctoral Committee.						
Comprehensive exams may only be scheduled after the candidate has completed all required coursework, and the student's doctoral committee has reviewed the PhD dissertation proposal. Students must be in registered status and have all missing and incomplete grades resolved before taking the comprehensive exam.						
Upon completion of the examination, the doctoral committee chair will notify the PhD Affairs Committee of the results. In the event that the student fails one or more parts of the exam, the doctoral committee will decide whether the student should retake the exam in its entirety or only those parts that he or she has failed. The doctoral committee may also recommend against retaking the exam and ask the PhD Affairs Committee to remove the student from the doctoral student roster. The student is allowed to retake the Comprehensive Exam in its entirety or part only once.						
Post-Comprehensive-ABD						
After a Ph.D. candidate has passed the comprehensive examination, the student must register continuously for each fall and spring semester until the final oral examination is passed. Post-comprehensive Ph.D. students must maintain registration by registering for non-credit 601 (resident) or 611 (non-resident).						
Funding Restrictions						
Assistantships will not be available to doctoral students after the second year of enrollment in the doctoral program. Students who finish their comprehensive exam by the end the second year will be eligible for an instructorship.						