

DOCTORAL PROGRAM MILESTONES

SOCIAL SCIENCES

Five phases from coursework to the defense. Timelines vary by program, so write in the target dates that fit yours and confirm them with your graduate advisor.

PHASE	FOCUS	MILESTONE	MY TARGET DATE
1 YEAR 1	FOUNDATION Coursework and methods training	Selecting advisor and research area	_____
2 YEAR 2	CANDIDACY Specialization seminars, TA teaching and comp prep	Comp exams and prospectus <i>Timing varies: many programs hold qualifying exams in Year 2, others in Year 3. Check your department's handbook.</i>	_____
3 YEAR 3	RESEARCH IRB approval, fieldwork and data collection	Data collection complete	_____
4 YEAR 4	WRITING Chapter drafting and conference papers	ABD and first job applications	_____
5+ YEAR 5+	COMPLETION Polishing and job market	Defense and graduation	_____