Recommended Timing of Progress
Through the Graduate Program

This document clarifies the expectations of when each of the steps through the program should ideally be completed. Please bear in mind that, in individual cases, there may be a need to be flexible about the timing of specific aspects of the program. Overall, however, we believe it is best for our students to have a clear idea of the pacing of progress that the faculty believe will prove most fruitful.

Year 1
1st semester (Fall)
- HIST 6100;
- 2 additional courses
- Languages
- Explore possible dissertation topics
- Start thinking about major and minor fields

2nd semester (Spring)
- HIST 6110
- HIST 8000: 1 hour independent study with first year advisor or recommended specialist; in conjunction with HIST 6110; Oversight of 1st year paper; See 6110 guidelines
- 2 additional courses
- Write 1st of 2 required research papers
- Tentative selection of major and minor fields, and of Ph.D. committee
- Consult by May 1 with committee members about summer readings for qualifying exam and about summer research for 2nd research paper
- Take at least one language exam if two are required.
- Apply for internal funding for language training support in summer.
- Narrow range of possible dissertation topics

1st summer
- Languages
- Read in major and minor fields to prepare for qualifying exam
- Preliminary research on potential dissertation materials and concepts
- Conduct research in preparation for 2nd research paper, if possible

Year 2
3rd semester (Fall)
- 3 courses
- Write 2nd required research paper in conjunction with one of the three courses or independent study taken this semester
- Finalize major and minor fields and Ph.D. committee by Sept. 1
- Finalize reading list for major and minor fields for qualifying exam by Sept. 1
Turn in Fields for Qualifying Exam Form to Susan by September 15th
Languages
Apply for archival travel grants for 2nd summer
Continue exam and dissertation reading
Refine dissertation topic

4th semester (Spring)
3 courses; students are encouraged to take independent study courses and/or reading courses geared toward preparing for their qualifying exam
Students should exercise caution in this semester in taking courses outside the department that require major papers to be written, unless such courses help with preparing for qualifying exam
Study for qualifying exam
Apply for archival travel grants for 2nd summer
Submit forms for Ph.D. committee at least 2 weeks before qualifying exam
Mandated language exams must be passed by April 7
Take qualifying exam by May after classes end (or in some cases by December of the 5th semester)

2nd summer
HIST 8200: prospectus seminar (Maymester/ Aug-Oct fall course)

Year 3
5th semester (Fall)
HIST 6300: teaching workshop
HIST 8200: prospectus seminar. Return start of fall semester with draft.
TA assignment
Apply for grants for dissertation research
Present dissertation prospectus by end of 5th semester (or by Spring break of the 6th semester for those who took qualifying exam in 5th semester)

6th semester (Spring)
TA assignment
Work on dissertation

3rd summer
Work on dissertation

Final two years
Dissertation research and writing
HIST 9999: Dissertation research each semester in residence
Two more semesters of TA work, for a total of 4 semesters of service