PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT’S FIVE-YEAR PLAN
FOR GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate students are expected to complete their graduate studies in Psychology within 5 years (6 years for those students in the Clinical program). The suggested time line below is approximate and flexible. Your advisor will assist you in constructing a plan of study that is appropriate for your particular program and training needs. The specific forms that need to be submitted are also listed here. Further details on requirements for the Master’s, comprehensive examination, Ph.D. dissertation, and specific program requirements can be found by clicking on the links to the right.

1st YEAR Master’s Proposal
- Meet with advisor to outline a plan of study.
- Begin to explore research ideas with your advisor.
- Form your Master’s committee
- Prepare a proposal for your Master’s and have it approved by the committee.
- Submit the Master’s Proposal form (Form #1) to the Graduate Coordinator and complete the Master’s Plan of Study via GradPath.

2nd YEAR Master’s Completion
- Carry out Master’s research project and complete all Master’s course requirements.
- Write up Master’s thesis and submit it to the Master’s committee for approval.
- Complete the Master’s Completion of Degree Requirements via GradPath and submit the Thesis Acceptance form (Form #2) to the Graduate Coordinator.

3rd YEAR Comprehensive Examination
- Meet with advisor to plan the examination and complete you Doctoral plan of Study via GradPath.
- Form you comprehensive examination committee and submit the committee names via GradPath for approval.
- Meet with your committee to approve the plan of study and decide on the examination format.
- Submit the written comprehensive exam or write a comprehensive examination paper.
- After written exam is passed, submit the Written Comprehensives Requirements form (Form #4) to the Graduate Coordinator.
- Schedule the oral examination with your committee members and submit the Announcement of Doctoral Comprehensive Exam via GradPath. When the oral examination is completed, the committee chair will submit the results via GradPath.

4th YEAR Doctoral Dissertation Proposal
- In consultation with your advisor, plan your dissertation research.
- Form a dissertation committee, and submit the Doctoral Dissertation Committee Appointment form via GradPath no later than six months prior to the dissertation defense.
- Prepare a written proposal for your dissertation research and have it approved by your committee.
- Submit the Doctoral Dissertation Proposal form (Form #5) to the Graduate Coordinator.
- Carry out your dissertation research.

5th YEAR Doctoral Dissertation Defense
- Complete dissertation research and all doctoral course requirements.
- Write up dissertation research and submit to your committee at least two weeks prior to the dissertation defense.
- Schedule the dissertation defense and submit the Announcement of Final oral Defense form via GradPath.
- Complete the dissertation defense and make final revisions to the document before submitting it to the Graduate College.

NOTE:
Clinical students will apply for their internship year after completion of the comprehensive examination and the dissertation proposal. See the Clinical Graduate Student Handbook for more details.
1. The Master’s committee should include two faculty, the primary supervisor and one other faculty member within Psychology.

2. The Master’s proposal will be reviewed and approved by both faculty members. This process does not require a formal proposal meeting, although a meeting is highly recommended. The proposal should be completed prior to the beginning of the fall semester of the second year.

3. All second year students will present their Master’s research at a joint MA/AMP Research Forum held at the end of the spring semester (late April or early May). Students can elect to present their project either as a poster or an oral presentation.

4. The written Master’s thesis must be completed and approved by the committee prior to the beginning of the fall semester of the third year. There is no requirement for a formal Master’s defense other than the research conference presentation, although a meeting is highly recommended. All revisions to the Master’s document must be completed and submitted prior to the beginning of the fall semester in the third year.

5. Students who have not completed their Master’s thesis by the beginning of the fall semester of their third year will be placed on provisional status, with the stipulation that they must complete both the Master’s thesis and their comprehensive exams by the beginning of the fourth year in the program. If they have not completed all the requirements for both the Master’s thesis and the comprehensive exams by that time, they may be dismissed from the graduate program.