

## Timeline to Fulfill the Requirements for the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature

The Graduate Division and the Comparative Literature Program have specific deadlines to measure student progress. Meeting these deadlines allows students to stay within normative time. If they lapse out of normative time the Graduate Division considers the students on probation and allows one quarter to remedy the situation before losing all support, including TAships. For details, see “Time-to-Degree Monitoring” at the Graduate Division website:  
<http://www.graddiv.ucsb.edu/academic/handbook/academicrequirements.htm>

Normative time is not to be confused with the amount of time in which a student is normally expected to accomplish each step toward the Ph.D.:

### A. For those earning the MA/PhD at UCSB

2 years MA work, UCSB  
2 years to advance to candidacy (4 years total)  
2-3 years for thesis  
(1 year abroad)  
6-7 years

### B. For those entering with the MA from another institution

After 1st year – First Field Exam  
2 years to advance to candidacy (3 years total)  
2-3 years for thesis  
(1 year abroad)  
6 years

These times translate into the following tentative schedule:

### A. For those earning the MA/PhD at UCSB

**Year 1:** Course work  
**Year 2:** First Field Exam and 36 units of course should be completed by the end of the second year  
**Year 3:** Course work, second field exam and possibly third field exam  
**Year 4:** ABD should be attained by the end of the 4<sup>th</sup> year by completing all three field exams and the remaining 24 units of course work and by successfully defending a dissertation prospectus.  
**Year 5:** Possible research abroad. Work on dissertation  
**Year 6:** Work on dissertation  
**Year 7:** Work on dissertation and defense

**B. For those entering with the MA from another institution**

**Year 1:** Course work

**Year 2:** First Field Exam in the first quarter of the second year. Course work. Possibly completing second field exam by the end of the year

**Year 3:** Completion of required 24 units of course work. Second and third field exams completed.

**Year 4:** ABD should be attained by the end of the fall quarter by successfully presenting a dissertation prospectus. Work on dissertation and/or research abroad.

**Year 5:** Possible research abroad, work on dissertation

**Year 6:** Work on dissertation and defense

**Master of Arts**

By the end of the second year of study, students must pass a written qualifying field examination or successfully complete a thesis in a national literature other than English. Those students who complete their graduate course work and the first qualifying examination with sufficient distinction will be invited to continue working toward the Ph.D.

**Doctor of Philosophy**

Students entering the program with an M.A. in comparative literature or a closely related field will present their first qualifying field examination in the first quarter of their second year at UCSB. Upon completion of the 24 units of required graduate work they will present two additional written qualifying field examinations representing their choice of two additional national literatures or a national literature and a related discipline.

**Graduate Prospectus and Oral Examination**

To meet the qualifying requirements for the Ph.D. in Comparative Literature, after completing their three field examinations, graduate students develop a prospectus for their doctoral dissertation with their committee members. Once the committee members have approved of the written prospectus, they meet as a group with the candidate to discuss the prospectus and to determine whether the student is sufficiently prepared to proceed with the writing of the dissertation.

**Other Considerations for Advanced Students**  
**Approaching the Dissertation**

**Choosing a Ph.D. Committee**

Students should begin thinking about their field(s) of specialization and their dissertation topic as soon as possible. Based on these considerations, students with an M.A. from UCSB should be ready to choose a Ph.D. committee by fall

quarter of their third year. Those with an M.A. from another institution should be prepared to do so by the end of spring quarter of their first year in the program. The committee will be comprised of three faculty members from the program, with an optional fourth member from another UCSB department.

### **Changing Dissertation Topic**

The focus of your thesis will naturally evolve as you progress in your research. However, a radical change in topic (different century, different genre) may require you to retake one or both of the post-MA field exams. Your committee and the Graduate Studies Committee will make the determination as to what is required.

### **Advancement to Candidacy**

When the required coursework and written and oral exams are successfully completed, the student is advanced to doctoral candidacy, effective the following quarter. This entails payment of an advancement to candidacy fee (currently \$65). **International students, once advanced to candidacy, have 3 years (9 semesters) of reduced nonresident tuition (one-fourth of the current full rate). They must finish their dissertations before this period expires; the Program cannot pay NRT beyond that point.**