

Timelines for completion of dissertation with Option 1

Semester in program	milestone goals (=target dates for completion of program in 4 years)	final deadlines (potential grounds for dismissal if not achieved)	dissertation
1-4	coursework; discuss comprehensive exam options and dissertation topic with advisor		
5	complete written and oral comprehensive exam		narrow down topic and goals of dissertation, identify committee, start working on proposal and IRB application
6	end of S6: defend dissertation proposal, advance to candidacy		work on proposal, IRB, collect pilot data (if applicable)
7		end of S7: comprehensive exam must be completed	dissertation research and writing
8			dissertation research and writing, defense
9		end of S9: must have advanced to candidacy	...
10			...