

Ph.D. Requirements (revision approved February 2006)

The Ph.D. program is a four-year program, with an initial *two*-year residency requirement. It is important that all Ph.D. students be familiar with the requirements for the Ph.D. as outlined in the Graduate Calendar.

1. Course work:

A student is normally required to complete three full courses or equivalent during the first year. Courses are to be chosen in consultation with the graduate coordinator and the advisor. Courses are normally to be completed before the end of the second year.

2. Language requirements:

All students must demonstrate an ability to read professionally in two languages other than English. The choice of the languages is to be approved by the graduate coordinator, having regard to the student's field of research. In some circumstances, demonstrated competence in computer programming may satisfy the requirement.

3. Generals papers:

Each student writes two generals papers during the first two years. Advisors are assigned by the graduate coordinator, under consultation with the student. For details, see the policy page headed "Ph.D. Generals papers."

4. Thesis proposal:

During the third year, the student is expected to determine his/her thesis topic, and do some preliminary work. An oral presentation on the thesis topic, and a written thesis proposal, must be completed by April 15 of the third year. During this year the student is also expected to submit at least one abstract to a conference.

5. Approved thesis topic:

Students who do not complete the oral and written thesis proposal by April 15 of the third year must nevertheless have an approved thesis topic, supervisor, and supervisory committee before the end of the third year in order to remain in good academic standing. This requirement will normally be satisfied at the May Monitoring in the student's third year, by which time the student must declare a thesis topic and pick a supervisor and supervisory committee. As the default option, the supervisor and supervisory committee will be those of the generals paper closest to the area of the thesis topic. It is understood that supervisor and committee may change as the student further sharpens the thesis topic in preparation for presenting the thesis proposal.

6. Thesis preparation

While the writing of the thesis is overseen by a supervisory committee of three faculty members, students are expected to present their work to the department at large on a regular basis. The first presentation is the thesis proposal, and is done before April 15 of the third year. Subsequently, students are expected to give a presentation at least once per year until the thesis is completed. With the consent of the supervisory committee, a student may choose not to make a presentation during the final stages of writing.

If a student's progress is deemed to be unsatisfactory by the supervisory committee, it may require the student to make another presentation within three

months. If this second presentation is not satisfactory, the student will not be permitted to continue in the program.

7. Thesis

The thesis must show “the results of original investigation, conducted by the candidate, on the approved topic from the major field. The thesis shall constitute a significant contribution to the knowledge of the field and must be based on research conducted while registered for the Ph.D. program.” (p. 59, *SGS 2005/2006 Calendar*).