

PhD Program at a Glance

Start date: September



YEAR 1

¹ Once your Reading List (40 titles) is approved by May 31st, you are given 11 months to prepare for the Comprehensive Exam.

YEAR 2

² You must complete 18 credits of 500-level coursework within the first 16 months of the program. A first-class average is required.

³ The 5-hour Comprehensive Exam takes place by April 30th on Year 2.

⁴ Once your PhD Thesis Proposal Defence Committee (3 members) is approved, you may start working on your written proposal (20 pages).

YEAR 3+

⁵ The PhD Thesis Proposal Defence takes place no later than Sept 30th and can be retaken by Nov 30th.

⁶ "Admission to Candidacy" is achieved once the course requirements, Qualifying Exam, Comprehensive Exam, and Thesis Proposal Defence have been completed. This status must be obtained within 36 months in the student's program.

⁷ Once the student has passed the PhD Thesis Proposal Defence, they may begin writing their PhD Thesis. Regular meetings should be held with the supervisor. For more information on the process of writing a dissertation, please visit www.grad.ubc.ca/handbook-graduate-supervision/graduate-thesis.

PhD Program at a Glance

Start date: January



YEAR 1

¹ The Qualifying Exam takes place at the beginning of September. Once your Reading List (40 titles) is approved by September 30th, you are given 11 months to prepare for the Comprehensive Exam.

YEAR 2

² You must complete 18 credits of 500-level coursework within the first 16 months of the program. A first-class average is required.

³ The 5-hour Comprehensive Exam takes place by August 31st (or the beginning of September) on Year 2.

⁴ Once your PhD Thesis Proposal Defence Committee (3 members) is approved, you may start working on your written proposal (20 pages).

YEAR 3

⁵ The PhD Thesis Proposal Defence takes place no later than Jan 31st and can be retaken by Mar 31st.

⁶ "Admission to Candidacy" is achieved once the course requirements, Qualifying Exam, Comprehensive Exam, and Thesis Proposal Defence have been completed. This status must be obtained within 36 months in the student's program.

⁷ Once the student has passed the PhD Thesis Proposal Defence, they may begin writing their PhD Thesis. Regular meetings should be held with the supervisor. For more information on the process of writing a dissertation, please visit www.grad.ubc.ca/handbook-graduate-supervision/graduate-thesis.