

PhD Time Line – Accelerated Masters and Ph.D. program (5-year program):

YEAR 1:

Fall:

- Coursework*, including GEOG 471

Spring

- Coursework*
- Discuss research paper topics with advisor. Work on research over summer
- Meet with faculty advisor to discuss plans and deadlines for departmental exam

YEAR 2:

Fall

- Form Advisory Committee (at least 3 faculty members including advisor, with a majority from Geography)
- Coursework*
- Conduct research for Research Paper
- Start writing Research Paper

Spring

- Coursework* (this can also include GEOG 595) (GEOG 599 if depositing a thesis)
- Finish Research Paper
- Submit research paper to committee for approval
- Meet with faculty advisor and advisory committee to discuss plans, reading lists and deadlines for departmental exam

YEAR 3:

Fall:

- Coursework*, (this can include GEOG 595)
- Take Departmental Exam
- Discuss dissertation topics with advisor

Spring

- Coursework*, including GEOG 491
- Develop dissertation proposal in GEOG 491
- Form dissertation committee (at least 4 faculty members with a majority from Geography and at least 2 tenured faculty)

YEAR 4:

Fall

- Coursework – mainly or only GEOG 595 and GEOG 599
- Complete dissertation proposal
- Present dissertation proposal at a graduate or departmental colloquium
- Take University Preliminary Exam
- Apply for grants and fellowships for dissertation research

Spring

- Registration – mainly or only GEOG 595 and GEOG 599
- Conduct dissertation research

YEAR 5:

Fall

- Registration -- only GEOG 599
- Dissertation research and writing
- Meet regularly with advisor and committee
- Start applying for teaching/research positions

Spring

- Registration – Only GEOG 599
- Apply for graduation
- Dissertation: Finish writing dissertation
 - Schedule dissertation defense
 - Dissertation defense and deposit
- Graduate!!

*In planning courses, remember that you need:

- at least 96 semester hours
- Two methods classes
- Minor requirement -- ≥ 16 hours in a field(s) outside geography
- Satisfy any specific course requirements for your program area

Professional development is also important:

- Gain teaching experience, if you want to go into teaching
- Attend conferences
- Present your research at conferences
- Submit papers for publication
- Network with colleagues in your field