



A Map to *Your* Psychology Doctoral Graduation

1. Key Relationships

- Solidify a relationship with a faculty sponsor/advisor and begin to discuss possible topics early on in the relationship. They will guide you through the program to the completion of your dissertation.
- Get familiar with the staff at the Office of Doctoral Studies and with their website.

2. Program Plan

- Find your program's plan, which lists required courses, and use it as your guide for coursework.
- Once coursework is completed or plans finalized, fill out a Program Plan, have your advisor sign, and submit it to Office of Doctoral Studies (ODS).

3. Certification (Research) Exams

- College-wide doctoral certification exams must be taken before advancing to candidacy and proposing your dissertation-- fall and spring CERT dates for most psychology students, plus a summer date for others (Deaf & Hard of Hearing; ID/Autism; ABA).

4. Doctoral Candidacy

- Once coursework and other requirements are completed and exams are passed, students apply to receive the M.Phil. degree *en passant*. Please note: some programs have additional requirements such as a research presentation, publication, and/or dissertation proposal before students can progress to candidacy.

5. Dissertation Proposal

- With your advisor, determine the topic, conduct a literature review, and write your first three chapters (Intro., Lit. Review, & Methods) to submit with the Proposal Hearing Form to ODS.
- While writing, identify your GSAS-approved dissertation sponsor and 2 other committee members: A Second Reader and an Outside (your program) Reader. One will likely be your committee Chair.
- Submit drafts to all committee members and try to schedule proposal hearing 2-3 months in advance of desired date.

6. Advanced Seminar

- Students apply for the Advanced Seminar (via ODS form) and present data to committee for further guidance (*Data Hearing*).
- Fellowships and dissertation defense-specific funding is available for these semesters with completed applications (via Financial Aid, Fellowships & Grants).

7. Dissertation Defense

- Register for Dissertation Defense course (TI8900) during the semester you will defend and submit Notification of Intention to Defend to ODS by the semester deadline.
- Confirm defense committee (5 individuals): Sponsor, Chair, Outside/Third Reader and two Examiners (1 outside program and 1 outside TC, typically).
- Schedule final hearing, defend, make any revisions, and submit for conferral of degree.