

English Literature PhD, Stages of Program and Timeline to Completion (90 Credits)

The PhD program consists of three stages:

- 1) Course Work (19 credits)
- 2) Examinations (18 credits)
- 3) Dissertation (53 credits)

Timeline to Completion

Year 1, Fall/Winter	Course work
Year 2, Fall	Major Field Exam (oral)
Year 2, Winter	Minor Field Exam (written)
Year 3, Fall	Thesis Proposal Examination
Year 3, Winter	Begin Dissertation
Year 4, Fall/Winter	Complete Dissertation

In **Year One**, students normally complete 16 credits of course work, including one Pro-Seminar on theories and methods (3 credits), four Studies Courses meeting historical distribution requirements (12 credits), and Professional Development Workshops (1 credit) familiarizing students with matters related to publication, conference participation, and teaching. (An additional 3 credits of course work accrue in Year Two from an independent study during preparation for the Sub-Field Examination).

Historical distribution: At least one Studies Course must be concerned with a period prior to 1900.

In **Year Two**, students normally prepare for and complete the Major Field Examination (6 credits) in the Fall Semester and the Sub-Field Examination in the Winter Semester (6 credits). By the end of the Fall Semester of Year Two, students should have chosen a primary faculty advisor. By the end of the Winter Semester of Year Two, students should have set have their dissertation committee in preparation to write the Thesis Proposal in the Fall Semester of Year Three.

The **Major Field Examination** (6 credits) is an oral exam evaluating competence in the student's primary field of literary study. The Major Field list will consist of approximately 30 works (allowing for variation according to genre and difficulty). Lists in Major Fields are provisionally established by faculty advisors and then adjusted according to the particularity student interests. Students should meet periodically with faculty advisors during their preparations to discuss progress in their reading and expectations for the exam. The oral exam is two-hours long, conducted by the primary advisor and one other faculty member, with the

Graduate Program Director in attendance. Exams are evaluated on the basis of comprehension of the works and fluency in discussing issues in the field.

The **Minor Field Examination** (6 credits) is a written exam evaluating competence in a theoretical or methodological field relevant to the student's projected dissertation research. The Minor Field list will consist of approximately 30 works (allowing for substantial variation according to genre and difficulty). Sub-Field lists are established in collaboration between students and faculty advisors, and preparation for the exam is supported by an Independent Study Course (3 credits) with the primary faculty advisor. During the course, students will meet biweekly with their advisor and biweekly with other students likewise preparing for the exam. Students then receive a list of five questions one week prior to the examination and prepare to write on three of them. The exam itself consists of responses to three questions, each requiring engagement with 3-4 authors or works from the list, written during a four-hour period without texts or notes. The Sub-Field exam is evaluated on the basis of expertise in the theoretical or methodological field and fluency in addressing core questions and conceptual issues.

In **Year Three** students normally prepare their thesis proposal and complete their prospectus examination (6 credits) in the Fall Semester; if successful, students begin their dissertation research in the Winter Semester.

The **Thesis Prospectus** is a 20-25 page document establishing a plan for the student's dissertation research. It normally consists of an Outline, a discussion of Method, a Literature Review, a discussion of Primary Sources, and a Chapter Outline. Students should meet periodically with their primary faculty advisor while preparing the proposal. The **Prospectus Examination** (6 credits) consists of a 15-20 minute presentation by the student followed by an oral exam evaluating preparedness to undertake the dissertation. It is carried out by the student's dissertation committee, with the Chair of the PhD Committee in attendance.

In **Year Four** students work toward completion of their dissertation, meeting regularly with their dissertation supervisor and responding to feedback on their chapters from the dissertation committee.

Upon completion of the dissertation to the satisfaction of their committee, PhD Candidates present their work at a **Dissertation Defence**. The Defence is conducted by the dissertation committee, one external examiner at Concordia, and one external examiner outside of Concordia. The dissertation is evaluated on the basis of its contribution to the field of the research and the doctoral candidate's expertise concerning relevant literary, methodological, and theoretical materials.

*Below is a table outlining ideal progress toward degree over 4 years.

Program Year	Expected Progress
Year One	16 Credits, Course Work - 3 Credits: required Pro-Seminar in Theories and Methods (Fall) - 12 Credits: Studies Courses (Fall / Winter) - 1 Credit: Professional Development Workshops (Winter)
Year Two	12 Credits, Examinations - 6 Credits: Major Field Exam (oral format) (Fall) - 6 Credits: Minor Field Exam (written format) (Winter) 3 Credits, Course Work - 3 Credits: Independent Study, Topics in Theories and Methods (Winter) (taken in preparation for Minor Field Exam)
Year Three	6 Credits, Examinations - 6 Credits: Dissertation Prospectus Exam (Fall) toward 53 Credits - PhD Candidate begins dissertation research & writing - Chapter 1 (Winter) - Chapter 2 (Summer)
Year Four	53 Credits, Dissertation - completion of dissertation - Chapter 3 (Fall) - Chapter 4 (Winter)