

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) Doctoral Thesis (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	Doctoral Thesis Proposal Examination
Year 3, Winter	Begin Doctoral Thesis
Year 4, Fall/Winter	Complete Thesis

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 Doctoral Thesis Committee in preparation to write the Doctoral 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 an

external faculty observer present. 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 Doctoral Thesis Proposal and complete their Thesis Proposal Examination (6 credits) in the Fall Semester; if successful, students begin their Thesis research in the Winter Semester.

The **Doctoral Thesis Proposal** 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, a Chapter Outline, and Works Cited. Students should meet periodically with the prospective Thesis Supervisor while preparing the proposal. The **Thesis Proposal Examination** (6 credits) is a two-hour oral exam conducted by the Doctoral Thesis Committee, usually consisting of the Supervisor and two other faculty members. It consists of a 20 minute presentation of the Thesis Proposal by the student, followed by questions from the Committee and discussion. The purpose of the exam is to evaluate preparedness to undertake the Thesis.

In **Year Four** students work toward completion of their Doctoral Thesis, meeting regularly with the Thesis Supervisor and responding to feedback on their chapters from the Thesis Committee.

Upon completion of the Thesis to the satisfaction of their committee, the PhD Candidate presents their work at a **Doctoral Thesis Defence**. The Defence is conducted by the Thesis Committee, one external examiner at Concordia, and one external examiner outside of Concordia. The Thesis 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: Doctoral Thesis Proposal Exam (Fall) toward 53 Credits - PhD Candidate begins Thesis research & writing - Chapter 1 (Winter) - Chapter 2 (Summer)
Year Four	53 Credits, Dissertation - completion of Thesis - Chapter 3 (Fall) - Chapter 4 (Winter)