**Timeline at a Glance for Students and Academic Advisors**

**Ph.D. Program in Visual Studies**

For more information, refer to “VS Program Guidelines and Requirements” ([http://www.humanities.uci.edu/visualstudies/program/guidelines.php](http://www.humanities.uci.edu/visualstudies/program/guidelines.php)) and official Catalogue requirements ([http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/hum/hum.23.htm#gen1](http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/hum/hum.23.htm#gen1)).

Normative time to advancement: 4 years

Normative time to degree: 7 years

Maximum time to degree: 8 years

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<tr>
<th>Fall Quarter, First Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Academic Advising with Director of Visual Studies</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coursework:</strong> 290A + additional courses¹</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work toward fulfilling the language requirement throughout the year²</td>
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<tr>
<td>Students entering with an MA in a related field may submit a petition to the Visual Studies Graduate Committee to waive some coursework (Must submit petition by the end of fall quarter)¹</td>
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<th>Winter Quarter, First Year</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coursework:</strong> 290B + additional courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet with Director for advising</td>
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<td>Work toward fulfilling the language requirement throughout the year</td>
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<th>Spring Quarter, First Year</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coursework:</strong> 290C + additional courses</td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet with Director for advising</td>
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<tr>
<td>Choose Principal Advisor (can be changed before taking VS 298 preliminary exam readings, if need arises)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work toward fulfilling the language requirement throughout the year</td>
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<tr>
<td>Complete degree audit with VS Graduate Coordinator</td>
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<th>Fall Quarter, Second Year</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Coursework</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Meet with Advisor</td>
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<tr>
<td>Work toward fulfilling the language requirement by Spring</td>
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<tr>
<td>If entering VS program with a BA, select a completed research paper for revision and expansion into the MA qualifying paper</td>
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<th>Winter Quarter, Second Year</th>
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If entering VS program with a BA, enroll in VS 296 with a faculty member who will supervise the MA paper writing and revision process

Meet with Advisor

Work toward fulfilling the language requirement by Spring

If entering VS program with a BA, submit MA advancement form by week 6 of the quarter

### Spring Quarter, Second Year

If entering VS program with a BA, submit MA paper by Friday of the first week of the quarter (NOTE: MA paper must be submitted and approved in order to enroll in VS 298 exam readings)

Meet with Advisor

Approach faculty in order to establish a 5 person committee for the Preliminary Examinations

Fulfill the language requirement (NOTE: language requirement must be met by the end of the second year; it is necessary in order to receive the MA degree)

Complete degree audit with VS Graduate Coordinator

### Fall Quarter, Third Year

Meet with Advisor

Enroll in VS 298A - Preliminary Examination Area 1
(in practice, one or more VS 298 examination areas can be undertaken in a particular quarter)

### Winter Quarter, Third Year

Meet with Advisor

Enroll in VS 298A - Preliminary Examination Area 2

### Spring Quarter, Third Year

Meet with Advisor

Enroll in VS 298A - Preliminary Examination Area 3

Take Preliminary Examinations; once passed, the student may begin work on the Prospectus

Complete degree audit with VS Graduate Coordinator

### Fall Quarter, Fourth Year

Meet with Advisor

Work on Dissertation Prospectus

Enroll in VS 298B - Prospectus Research

### Winter Quarter, Fourth Year

Meet with Advisor
Enroll in VS 297 Writing Practicum - Prospectus Writing

Enroll in VS 298B - Prospectus Research

Finish Prospectus

**Spring Quarter, Fourth Year**

Meet with Advisor

Enroll in VS 298B - Prospectus Research

Have Prospectus approved

Advance to candidacy for the Ph.D. degree. Must advance now or will not be eligible to TA (4 years after entering the program).

Complete degree audit with VS Graduate Coordinator

**Fifth Year**

Dissertation Research: Keep in touch with Dissertation Chair and committee members and focus on writing and revising the dissertation.

Enroll in VS 299 - Dissertation Research

**Sixth and Seventh Year**

Dissertation Research/Writing/Submission

* Aim to submit the first full draft of the dissertation to the Dissertation Chair. Although the dissertation writing and revision process varies with individual students and faculty mentors, it is not advisable to seek to file a first draft dissertation for fulfillment of the Ph.D. degree. Accordingly, students are strongly advised to submit a first full draft of the dissertation to the Dissertation Chair 3 quarters ahead of filing for the Ph.D. degree. This would allow enough time for the Chair to give feedback on the first full draft (typically within 6 weeks of submission); for the student to revise the first draft in accordance with the Chair's feedback (1 or 2 months for revision); for the rest of the committee to give feedback on the second full draft of the dissertation (again, within 6 weeks of submission), and for the student to make final revisions in accordance with the Chair and committee's comments.

When all revisions to the dissertation are completed, file for the Ph.D. degree. Make sure to file before Graduate Division's final degree paperwork deadline as no exceptions are allowed.

Bear in mind that the maximum time to degree is 8 calendar years from first admission into the Visual Studies Ph.D. Program.

Considerations when planning time to advancement:

- Students can TA for a maximum of 12 quarters before advancing.
- Students can TA for a maximum of 18 quarters total. No exceptions are made to this rule.
- Students enter Doc2A status 9 quarters after advancing, which makes them ineligible for funding of any kind, including TAships. *This supersedes the 18-quarter maximum listed above.*
• By waiting to advance until the end of your 4th year, students allow themselves more time to line up external funding for dissertation research.

(Last Updated: 7/27/12)

1 Required Coursework is a total of 14 courses (at least 10 courses within VS, including the Core 290ABC, 295 Electives, 296 Directed Readings, and the 297 Writing Practicum, and at least 2 courses outside Visual Studies. Although students will accrue units both for University Teaching (FMS or AH 399) and Reading for the Preliminary Examination (VS 298A), these do not count toward the required number of courses. Students admitted with an M.A. in a related field may petition the VS Graduate Committee to have some of their course requirements waived and advance early; such petitions will be considered in close consultation with the primary advisor and on a case-by-case basis (though all students must take the core sequence). Under normal circumstances, up to two courses may be waived. A maximum of four courses may be waived, in which case no more than two waived courses may count as required Visual Studies courses. The petitioned courses must be reviewed and approved first by the Visual Studies Graduate Committee and thereafter by the Graduate Division. Students wishing to waive coursework must petition by the end of the Fall quarter of their first year in the program.

2 The foreign language requirement can be met by demonstrating a reading knowledge of a foreign language in one of four ways:

1. By enrolling in and completing, with a grade of "B" or better, a language course at a UC campus at the 2C level, with the exception of Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, which must be completed at the 3C level.
2. By enrolling in and completing, with a grade of "B" or better, one of the following three translation seminars: French/German/Spanish 97, "Fundamentals of French/German/Spanish (with Emphasis on Reading)."
3. By passing the program’s foreign language exam. Students choose the language they wish to test in. This request must be made to the VS Staff within the first two weeks of the quarter the student wishes to take the exam.
4. By attaining a proficiency level of 2C on the Russian Exemption Exam or a proficiency level of 3C on the Chinese Exemption Exam offered by UCI’s Academic Testing Center.
5. By petitioning the program. Grounds for a petition might include the student being a native speaker a language other than English, or the student having satisfied the language requirement at a previous institution, etc. The granting of this petition remains at the discretion of the VS Director, although students dissatisfied with this determination may request the petition be considered by the full faculty.

3 The 5-person preliminary examination committee is comprised of the following: A principal advisor, who will generally also be Dissertation Chair and supervise one examination field; two additional faculty members, at least one of whom must be VS faculty, who will each supervise one examination field; a fourth member, who must be a VS faculty member, and who will not supervise an exam field but will participate in the oral exam; and a fifth committee member, who will be from the UCI faculty but not be a member of the VS, FMS, or AH faculty. The fifth member, also known as the “outside member,” can be selected closer to the Preliminary Examination quarter.