

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>) and official Catalogue requirements (<http://www.editor.uci.edu/catalogue/hum/hum.23.htm#gen1>)

Normative time to advancement: 3 years

Normative time to degree: 6 years

Maximum time to degree: 7 years

Fall Quarter, First Year

Academic Advising with Director of Visual Studies

Coursework: 290A + 2 additional courses¹ (3 courses is standard load; taking 4 courses in one term is not recommended)

Submit updated contact information by early October

Work toward fulfilling the language requirement (must be fulfilled before advancing to candidacy in third year)²

Students entering with an MA in a related field may submit a petition to the Visual Studies Graduate Committee to waive some coursework¹

Winter Quarter, First Year

Coursework: 290B + 2 additional courses (3 courses is standard load; taking 4 courses in one term is not recommended)

Meet with Director for advising

Work toward fulfilling the language requirement

Spring Quarter, First Year

Coursework: 290C + 2 additional courses (3 courses is standard load; taking 4 courses in one term is not recommended)

Meet with Director for advising

Choose Principal Advisor (can be changed before taking VS 298 preliminary exam readings if need arises)

Work toward fulfilling the language requirement

If entering VS program with a BA, select a completed research paper for revision and expansion into the MA qualifying paper

Complete degree audit with VS Graduate Coordinator

Submit updated CV, bullet-list report of the academic year's accomplishments (including requirements fulfilled, writing accomplished, conferences, awards, and publications), and bullet-list of goals for following academic year in May

Read yearend faculty feedback when available (typically late spring quarter or early summer)

Fall Quarter, Second Year

Coursework: typically 2 graduate courses + TAs/399 University Teaching

Meet with Advisor

Submit updated contact information by early October

If entering VS program without an MA, enroll in VS 296 with a faculty member who will supervise the MA paper writing and revision process

Work toward fulfilling the language requirement

Winter Quarter, Second Year

Coursework: typically, 2 graduate courses + TAs/399 University Teaching

If entering VS program without a MA, 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

Work toward fulfilling the language requirement

Approach faculty in order to establish a 5-person committee for the Preliminary Examinations³

Spring Quarter, Second Year

Meet with Advisor

Enroll in VS 298A -- Preliminary Examination Area 1; take preliminary written exam to be approved by exam area faculty in finals week

Work toward fulfilling the language requirement

Complete degree audit with VS Graduate Coordinator

Submit updated CV, bullet-list report of the academic year's accomplishments (including requirements fulfilled, writing accomplished, conferences, awards, and publications), and bullet-list of goals for following academic year in May

Read yearend faculty feedback when available (typically late spring quarter or early summer)

Fall Quarter, Third Year

Enroll in VS 298A -- Preliminary Examination Area 2; take preliminary written exam to be approved by exam area faculty in finals week

Submit updated contact information by early October

Meet with Advisor

Develop dissertation topic in preparation for prospectus practicum in winter

Work toward fulfilling the language requirement

Winter Quarter, Third Year

Meet with Advisor

Enroll in VS 297 -- Writing Practicum Prospectus Writing

Fulfill the language requirement if not already fulfilled

Complete degree audit with VS Graduate Coordinator

Spring Quarter, Third Year

Meet with Advisor

Enroll in VS 298B -- Prospectus Research

Confirm members of dissertation committee (3 faculty or more) and circulate prospectus

Defense of written exams and dissertation prospectus with advancement committee (5 members).

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

Submit updated CV, bullet-list report of the academic year's accomplishments (including requirements fulfilled, writing accomplished, conferences, awards, and publications), and bullet-list of goals for following academic year in May

Read yearend faculty feedback when available (typically late spring quarter or early summer)

Fall Quarter, Fourth Year

Meet with Advisor

Enroll in VS 299 -- Dissertation Research

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

Submit updated contact information by early October

Winter Quarter, Fourth Year

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

Spring Quarter, Fourth Year

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

Complete degree audit with VS Graduate Coordinator

Submit updated CV, bullet-list report of the academic year's accomplishments (including requirements fulfilled, writing accomplished, conferences, awards, and publications), and bullet-list of goals for following academic year in May

Read yearend faculty feedback when available (typically late spring quarter or early summer)

Fifth and Sixth Year

Dissertation Research/Writing/Submission

Aim to submit the 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. 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

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

VS students who complete their degrees by the spring quarter of their fifth year and have a demonstrated record of strong scholarship and teaching are eligible to apply for an MHFF position. Faculty Fellows teach four courses, primarily in the interdisciplinary, writing-intensive Humanities Core, with the possible opportunity to teach one course in their home department

Submit updated CV, bullet-list report of the academic year's accomplishments (including requirements fulfilled, writing accomplished, conferences, awards, and publications)

Read yearend faculty feedback when available (typically late spring quarter or early summer)

Seventh Year

Bear in mind that the maximum time to degree is 7 calendar years from first admission into the Visual Studies Ph.D. Program.

Submit updated contact information by early October

Submit updated CV, bullet-list report of the academic year's accomplishments (including requirements fulfilled, writing accomplished, conferences, awards, and publications)

Read yearend faculty feedback when available (typically late spring quarter or early summer)

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*

(Last Updated: 9/22/16)

¹ Required Coursework is a total of 14 courses (at least 10 courses within VS, including the Core 290ABC, 295 Electives, 296 Directed Readings, 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. Under normal circumstances, 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 language requirement can be met by demonstrating a reading knowledge of a language other than English in one of the following ways:

- By completing, with a grade of "B" or better, a language course at the 2C level or equivalent, with the exception of Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, which must be completed at the 3C level or equivalent.
- 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)."
- 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.
- 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.
- 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 advancement committee is comprised of the following: A principal advisor, who will generally also be Dissertation Chair and supervise one examination field; one additional faculty member, who must be VS faculty, will supervise the secondary examination field; a third faculty member, who must be a VS faculty member; a fourth member, who may or may not be a VS faculty member; and a fifth committee member, who must be UCI faculty but not a member of the VS faculty. The fifth member, also known as the "outside member," can be selected closer to the Preliminary Examination quarter.