

D.Sc. Timeline and Key Milestones

The figure below illustrates key milestones and deadlines on a timeline for the D.Sc. program.

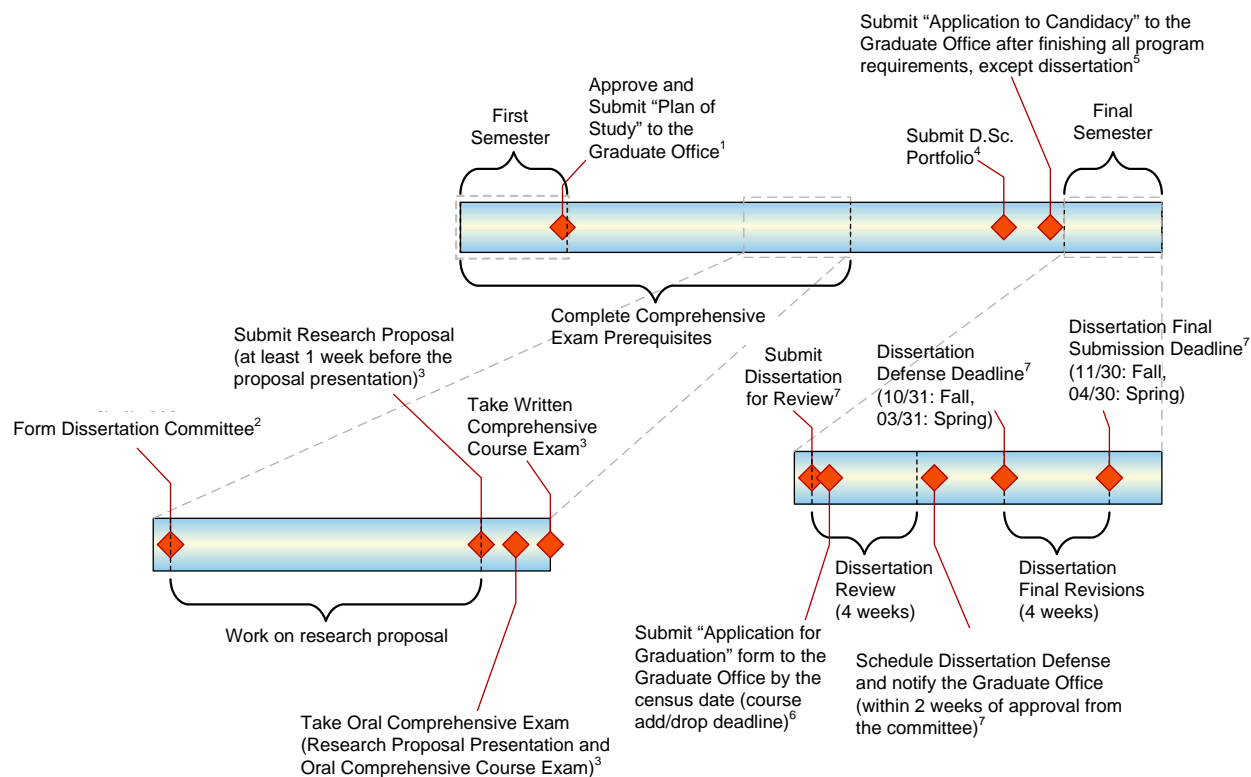


Figure 1. D.Sc. Timeline

1. **Plan of Study:** In the first semester of the program, students should work with their faculty advisor on their Plan of Study for completing the program requirements. Once approved by the advisor, this document must be submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. The Plan of Study must be submitted by the end of the first semester. Any changes to this Plan of Study must be pre-approved by the faculty advisor and should result in resubmitting the updated (and reapproved) Plan of Study to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. For detailed guidelines, refer the “D.Sc. Plan of Study Guidelines” document and DSU policy “Plan of Study”, available at <http://www.departments.dsu.edu/hr/newsite/policies/053000.htm>.
2. **Forming a Dissertation Committee:** Students should form a dissertation committee as early on in the program as possible. Please refer to DSU policy “Faculty Committees for Graduate Degrees” regarding detailed requirements of a dissertation committee. As part of the dissertation committee, the student must also select the dissertation chair or co-chairs, who will be the primary guide(s) during the dissertation process. Upon forming the dissertation committee, the student must first work on formulating a research proposal to be submitted and presented for approval as part of the D.Sc. comprehensive exam, as mentioned below. For detailed guidelines regarding the dissertation process, refer the “D.Sc. Dissertation Guidelines” document.
3. **D.Sc. Comprehensive Exam:** Students must schedule their D.Sc. comprehensive exam no earlier than the semester in which they will be completing the prerequisites for the comprehensive exam. The comprehensive exam consists of the following components:
 - Written comprehensive exam
 - Written comprehensive course exam
 - Research proposal report

Oral comprehensive exam

Research proposal presentation

Oral comprehensive course exam

For detailed guidelines, refer the “D.Sc. Comprehensive Examination Guidelines” document.

4. **D.Sc. Portfolio:** Students are expected to begin work on building a D.Sc. portfolio from their first semester into the program. Students must submit the completed D.Sc. portfolio at least one semester before the intended final dissertation defense. The dissertation committee will provide feedback within a month of submission of the portfolio. The portfolio must be approved by the committee in order to attempt the final dissertation defense. For detailed guidelines, refer the “D.Sc. Portfolio Guidelines” document.
5. **Application for Candidacy:** Upon completion of all program requirements, except dissertation, students must submit their Application for Candidacy to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. Please refer to DSU policy “Application for Candidacy”.
6. **Application for Graduation:** At the beginning of the final semester (semester of intended graduation), students must submit their Application for Graduation to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research by the census date (course add/drop) deadline in that semester. Please refer to DSU policy “Application for Graduation”.
7. **Final Dissertation Review and Defense:** Upon submission of the dissertation for review, the dissertation committee will provide their feedback within four weeks, and notify dissertation chair or co-chairs about the student’s readiness to defend. If the candidate is deemed ready to defend by the committee and the chair/co-chairs, the candidate must schedule the dissertation defense within 2 weeks of this notification, and inform the Office of Graduate Studies and Research. The final dissertation defense must meet the deadlines for final defense date for the corresponding semester (10/31 for Fall semester, and 03/31 for Spring semester). Students must submit the final approved dissertation to the Office of Graduate Studies and Research by the final dissertation submission deadline (11/30 for Fall semester, and 04/30 for Spring semester). For detailed guidelines, refer the “D.Sc. Dissertation Guidelines” document.