

May 25, 2022

**Flagg Miller**  
Department Chair, Study of Religion Graduate Program

**Naomi Janowitz**  
Program Chair, Study of Religion Graduate Program

**RE:** Study of Religion Graduate Program Degree Requirements

Enclosed is a copy of the Study of Religion Graduate Program degree requirements as approved by Graduate Council on May 23, 2022. These degree requirements are now the revised, official document for the Study of Religion Graduate Program and will be posted to the Office of Graduate Studies program webpage:

<https://grad.ucdavis.edu/programs/grel>

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of graduate education.

Sincerely,



Dean Tantillo  
Chair, Graduate Council Committee

c: Jasmine Bonite, Director of Policy and Programs, Graduate Studies  
Duncan Temple Lang, Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, Graduate Studies  
Felicia Murdoch, Policy Analyst, Davis Division of the Academic Senate  
Maria Ruby, Coordinator, Study of Religion Graduate Program

# Graduate Program in The Study of Religion Degree Requirements

Previously Approved: January 11, 2010; May 14, 2019

Approved by the Graduate Council: May 23, 2022

## M.A. Degree Requirements

### 1) Admissions Requirements:

Students will not be admitted directly to the M.A. program; admitted students can earn the M.A. while enrolled in the Ph.D. program. by submitting a Change of Degree Objective Form to Graduate Studies. Obtaining an M.A. can only happen after successfully passing the preliminary exam at the end of the second year.

### 2) Master of Arts degree in the Study of Religion, Master's Plan II (Preliminary Examination)

There are 36 required units of coursework of which at least 18 units must be graduate courses in the major field. No more than 9 units of research (299 or equivalent) may be used to satisfy the 18-unit requirement. The student must successfully pass/complete a preliminary examination in the major subject. Ph.D students who wish to obtain an M.A. either en route to the Ph.D. or as a terminal degree may use successful completion of the Ph.D. preliminary examination to satisfy the Master's Plan II Comprehensive Examination requirement (note that this exam is called a "comprehensive exam" for students seeking only the Masters degree). No thesis is needed.

### 3) Course Requirements: 36 units

#### a) Core Courses: 16 units

REL 200A. Historical Roots of the Study of Religion (4 units)

REL 200B. Foundational Theories of Religion (4 units)

REL 200C. Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion (4 units)

REL 200D. Field Profile Seminar I-II (2 units each; 4 units total)

#### b) Elective Courses: 20 units minimum

As they develop their graduate studies, students will choose one Regional Area of Specialization (RAOS) one Thematic Area of Specialization (TAOS), and one Area of Competence (AOC). The Area of Competence will normally be a secondary religious tradition chosen to complement the primary Regional Area of Specialization (RAOS). Courses in the Area of Competence are not required for fulfillment of the Master's degree requirements. Students will choose electives with the approval of the Graduate Adviser. It is expected that at least one course will count toward both Regional and Thematic Areas of Specialization unit requirements.

#### Regional Areas of Specialization: 3 courses in one of the following areas:

- American Religious Cultures- (e.g. Special Topics in American Religious Cultures [REL 210A])
- Mediterranean Religions -(e.g. Special Topics in Mediterranean Religious Cultures [REL 210C])
- Asian Religions - (e.g. Special Topics in Asian Religious Cultures [REL 210B])

#### Thematic Areas of Specialization: 3 courses in one of the following areas:

- Values, Ethics, and Human Rights- (e.g. REL 230E; REL 231E)
- Modernity, Science, and Secularism (e.g. REL 230C)
- Visual Culture, Media and Technology (e.g. REL 230F)
- Language, Rhetoric and Performance (e.g. REL 230B)
- Body and Praxis (e.g. REL 230A)
- Theory and Method (e.g. REL 230D)

**Area of Competence (OPTIONAL):** 2 courses from a secondary Regional Area of Specialization

**c) Summary:**

Students are required to complete a minimum of 36 units: 16 Core units and 20 Elective units (minimum). It is expected that at least one course (4 units) will count toward both Regional and Thematic Areas of Specialization unit requirements. Per UC regulations, full-time students typically enroll in 12 units. A graduate student can only enroll in 12 units of graduate courses in a given quarter, and up to 16 if one course is an undergraduate course.

**d) English Language Requirement**

Students who have neither obtained a previous degree at an approved English-medium institution nor demonstrated English-language proficiency through an appropriate exam (e.g. TOEFL) are required to complete appropriate English-language courses, as described in the policy *Graduate Student Course Requirements – English as Second Language (GC2018-02)*. Courses taken in satisfaction of this requirement do not count towards the units required for graduation

**Table 1. M.A. unit requirements in the Study of Religion**

<b>Graduate Coursework in the Study of Religion</b>	
Theory and Method Proseminars	12 units
Field Profile Seminar	4 units
Regional Area of Specialization	12 units
Thematic Area of Specialization	12 units
Total units (unadjusted)	40 units
It is expected that at least one course will be taken that will count toward both the Regional Area of Specialization requirement and the Thematic Area of Specialization requirement	- 4 units
<b>Total minimum required units</b>	<b>36 units</b>

**4) Advising Structure and Mentoring:**

The **Major Professor** is the faculty member who supervises the student's research and dissertation; this person serves as the Chair of the Dissertation Committee. The principal duties of **Graduate Advisers** are: advising with regard to the program of study and advising students regarding the group members on their qualifying exam and dissertation committees. There must be at least one Graduate Adviser for every 15 graduate students. Advisers will serve a term of three years, and are appointed in compliance with the policies and procedures of the Graduate Council and the Office of Graduate Studies. If possible, the student's major professor will not be the student's graduate adviser.

The Graduate Program in the Study of Religion fully subscribes to the **Mentoring Guidelines** approved by the UC Davis Graduate Council in June 1999. These are available online at:

<http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/gradcouncil/policiesall.html>

## 5) Committees:

### a) Preliminary Examination Committee:

The Preliminary Exam committee (known, for the purposes of M.A. degree as the “Comprehensive Exam” committee) consists of three faculty members, at least two of whom must be members of the Religious Studies department. Students may include faculty outside the RST department and those not affiliated with the GREL in their committees for the remaining slot. The Chair of the Preliminary Exam Committee cannot be the student’s major professor.

## 6) Advancement to Candidacy:

Students must advance to candidacy for the degree of Master of Arts in the Study of Religion before taking the comprehensive exam. Students typically advance to candidacy in the quarter prior to taking this exam.

The Candidacy for the Degree of Master form can be found on the website of Graduate studies. A completed form includes a list of courses the student will take to complete degree requirements. If changes must be made to the student’s course plan after they have advanced to candidacy, the Graduate Advisor must recommend these changes to Graduate Studies. Student must have the Graduate Advisor and preliminary (or “comprehensive” in M.A. parlance) exam committee chair sign the candidacy form before it can be submitted to graduate Studies. Graduate Studies will send a copy to the comprehensive exam committee chair, the appropriate graduate staff person, and the student. If Graduate Studies determines that a student is not eligible for advancement, the department and the student will be told the reasons for the application’s deferral. Some reason for deferring an application include: grade point average below 3.0, outstanding “I” grades in required courses, or insufficient units”.

## 7) Preliminary Examination Requirements:

### STRUCTURE OF THE PRELIMINARY EXAM

The exam consists of three parts:

- a 3-5-page double-spaced research statement (written component)
- a research essay (written component)
- a 1.5-hour oral presentation and discussion related to the research statement and essay on the day of the exam (oral component)

### EVALUATING THE PRELIMINARY EXAM

The exam will be evaluated as Pass (P)/ No Pass (NP)/ or Provisional Pass (PP)

In the case of a Pass, the exam is considered complete. No further work on the examination will be required.

In the case of a Provisional Pass, the committee will provide specific directions to the student. The student will be required to address the issues within one quarter of completing the Preliminary Exam. In the event the student does not complete the requested work in the designated time, the Provisional Pass will revert to a NP. The student will then be required to take the Preliminary Exams again.

In the case of a No Pass (NP), the student will be given one opportunity to retake the exam. This must be taken within one quarter of the original Preliminary exam.

A student who does not pass the Preliminary Exam on the second attempt shall be recommended to Graduate Studies for disqualification from the M.A. program.

The results of all examinations must be reported to Graduate Studies using the Master’s Report Form

**8) Normative Time to Degree.**

It is anticipated that most students will complete the requirements and comprehensive exam in two years.

**9) Typical Time Line and Sequence of Events:**

Year One	Fall	Winter	Spring
	200A Historical Roots of the Study of Religion	200B Foundational Theories of Religion	200C Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion
	Advanced Language Training	Advanced Language Training	Advanced Language Training
	200 level course (RAOS)	200 level course (RAOS)	200 level course (TAOS)

Year Two	Fall	Winter (advancement to MA candidacy)	Spring
	200 level course (RAOS)	200 level course (RAOS)	200 level course (RAOS/TAOS)
	200 level course (TAOS)	200 level course (TAOS)	Directed Study with GGSR faculty
	Area of Competence (AOC) course	200D Field Profile Seminar for AOSP	200D Field Profile Seminar for AOSP (Comprehensive Exam completed)

**10) Sources of Funding:** Most graduate students will be funded by Teaching Assistantships in the Religious Studies program, which currently employs 12-14 TAs per year. In addition, courses of 50 students or more in Religious Studies are currently eligible for funding from the HARCS Dean’s office for Readers; we expect graduate students in the GREL to be the majority of these Readers. Students in the GREL program are expected to also apply for both internal and external fellowships and graduate scholarships, and will apply for graduate financial aid as needed.

**11) PELP, In Absentia and Filing Fee status.**

Information about PELP (Planned Educational Leave), In Absentia (reduced fees when researching out of state), and Filing Fee status can be found in the Graduate Student Guide:

<http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/publications/>

## Ph.D. Degree Requirements

### 1) Admissions Requirements:

Successful applicants for admission to the Graduate Program in the Study of Religion must meet the UC Davis minimum undergraduate GPA requirement for admission (3.0), and must:

1. Hold a Bachelor's or Master's degree in a discipline relevant to the Study of Religion (such as Religious Studies, History, Philosophy, or Anthropology).
2. Demonstrate proficiency in English: applicants (whether undergraduate or more advanced) who have not studied at an English-language university in which the primary language of instruction is English must meet the Office of Graduate Studies minimum TOEFL/IELTS score requirement, or the equivalent on another University-approved examination.
3. Submit three letters of recommendation.
4. Submit a Statement of Purpose.
5. Have a confirmed Major Professor: Prior to admission, a member of the GREL in good standing must confirm that s/he is willing to act as the student's Major Professor.
6. Students must have begun study of at least one language relevant to the intended area of primary research before admission.

**a) Prerequisites:** Substantive undergraduate work in Religious Studies or in a related field (such as History, Philosophy, or Anthropology) will also be expected of all applicants. The undergraduate major requirements in Religious Studies at UC Davis are: five lower-division courses in Religious Studies and ten upper-division courses in Religious Studies and related fields, fifteen courses total; given the diverse nature of topics covered in Religious Studies, the specific content of these courses is not standardized. Applicants to the program in the Study of Religion must have completed an amount of work at least equivalent to that of the UC Davis undergraduate Religious Studies major. For applicants coming from a school on the semester system, admission to the GGSR would require a total of ten courses in Religious Studies or in fields related to Religious Studies, of which at least seven should be upper-division courses. Applicants may contact the Study of Religion office for guidance on courses that may be acceptable.

**b) Deficiencies:** Applicants who have not completed the required prior coursework will not be admitted to the program.

### 2) Dissertation Plan:

The program offers a Dissertation Plan C, as described in section 520 of the Davis Division Academic Senate Regulations. This plan requires a minimum three-member dissertation committee, a final oral examination, and no exit seminar.

### 3) Course Requirements: (60 units)

#### a) Core Courses (16 units):

REL 200A. Historical Roots of the Study of Religion (4 units)

REL 200B. Foundational Theories of Religion (4 units)

REL 200C. Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion (4 units)

REL 200D Field Profile Seminar I-II (2 units each; 4 units total)

#### b) Elective Courses: minimum 44 units

As they develop their graduate studies, students will choose one Regional Area of Specialization (RAOS), one Thematic Area of Specialization (TAOS), and one Area of Competence (AOC). The Area of Competence will normally be a secondary religious tradition chosen to complement the primary Regional Area of Specialization (RAOS). Students will choose electives with the approval of the Graduate Advisor. It is expected that at least one course will count toward both Regional and Thematic Areas of Specialization unit requirements. In addition to the requirements for the RAOS, TAOS and AOC, students must take 20 units of elective graduate-level courses; students may count up to 12 units of advanced language study in a primary language of research as part of their elective units, and may count up to 12 units of directed research with a GREL faculty member as part of their elective units.

**Regional Areas of Specialization: 3 courses in one of the following areas:**

- American Religious Cultures (e.g. Special Topics in American Religious Cultures [REL 210A])
- Mediterranean Religions (e.g. Special Topics in Mediterranean Religious Cultures [REL 210C])
- Asian Religions-(e.g. Special Topics in Asian Religious Cultures [REL 210B])

**Thematic Areas of Specialization: 3 courses in one of the following areas:**

- Values, Ethics, and Human Rights (e.g. REL 230E; REL 231E)
- Modernity, Science, and Secularism (e.g. REL 230C)
- Visual Culture, Media and Technology (e.g. REL 230F)
- Language, Rhetoric and Performance (e.g. REL 230B)
- Body and Praxis (e.g. REL 230A)
- Theory and Method-(e.g. REL 230D)

**Area of Competence:** 2 courses from a secondary Regional Area of Specialization

**c) Summary:**

Students are required to complete a minimum of 60 units: 16 Core units, and 44 Elective units (minimum). It is expected that at least one course will be taken that will count toward both the Regional Area of Specialization requirement and the Thematic Area of Specialization requirement, and one course will be taken that will count toward both the Area of Competence requirement and either the Regional Area of Specialization Requirement or the Thematic Area of Specialization requirement. Per UC regulations; full-time students typically enroll in a minimum of 12 units. A graduate student can only enroll in 12 units of graduate courses in a given quarter, and up to 16 if one course is an undergraduate course.

**Table 2. Ph.D. unit requirements in the Study of Religion**

<b>Graduate Coursework in the Study of Religion</b>	
Theory and Method Proseminars	12 units
Field Profile Seminar	4 units
Regional Area of Specialization	12 units
Thematic Area of Specialization	12 units
Area of Competence	8 units
Additional Elective Courses (including advanced language study or directed research)	20 units
Total units (unadjusted)	68 units
It is expected that at least one course will be taken that will count toward both the Regional Area of Specialization requirement and the Thematic Area of Specialization requirement, and one course will be taken that will count toward both the Area of Competence requirement and either the Regional Area of Specialization Requirement or the Thematic Area of Specialization requirement	- 8 units
<b>Total minimum required units</b>	<b>60 units</b>

#### d) English Language Requirement

Students who have neither obtained a previous degree at an approved English-medium institution nor demonstrated English-language proficiency through an appropriate exam (e.g. TOEFL) are required to complete appropriate English-language courses, as described in the policy *Graduate Student Course Requirements – English as Second Language* ([GC2018-02](#)). Courses taken in satisfaction of this requirement do not count towards the units required for graduation

#### 4) Special Requirements:

**a. Foreign Languages:** All students must demonstrate competency in a language other than English. There are two categories of foreign language requirements: primary research language and language of scholarship. Student may demonstrate language competency via coursework, or a translation exam administered by a qualified faculty member at UC Davis with the relevant language expertise. Students who have two or more primary languages of research may petition to substitute one of these languages for the language of scholar (typically French or German).

Student whose research requires statistical analysis, digital analysis, or computer coding, may substitute competency in a deciding language such as JavaScript or Python for either the primary research language or the language of scholarship. The determination of the substitution will be made in consultation with the student's Major Professor and the graduate advisor.

Competency in a primary language (research language) may be demonstrated through coursework (one graduate seminar, 4 units) or through a three-hour language exam evaluated either by the major professor or by a faculty member with competency in the language. The exam involves translating an article of no more than 10 pages in English within a three-hour period. Students may consult dictionaries but may not rely on online resources or translators. A one-hour written exam will also be required to demonstrate written competency. If a student's research requires oral competency, the student may replace the written exam with the oral exam. The decision to take the oral or written exam is taken in consultation with the major advisor and Graduate Advisor. A copy of the exam(s) will be retained by the GREL.

The language of scholarship exam requires students to demonstrate reading competency at the second or third-year level. Students may pass this exam by taking a placement test, passing a reading course with a grade of B or better, or taking a translation exam administered by a faculty member with the relevant expertise in the exam. If student are taking a language exam, student demonstrate reading competency by translating no more than five pages of an article related to their field of research in two hours. The result of the exam will be maintained by the GREL. It is understood that if students have primary research languages, that their fluency in languages is at a higher level than of the language of scholarship. Students must complete their language exams prior to the Qualifying Examination (QE).

#### 5) Advising Structure and Mentoring:

The **Major Professor determined prior to admission** is the faculty member who supervises the student research and dissertation; this person serves as the Chair of the Dissertation Committee. The principal duties of **Graduate Advisors** are: advising with regard to the program of study and advising students regarding the group members on their qualifying exam and dissertation committees. There must be at least one Graduate Advisor for every 15 graduate students. Advisors will serve a term of three years, and are appointed by Graduate Studies in compliance with the policies and procedures of the Graduate Council and the Office of Graduate Studies. If possible, the student's major professor will not be the student's graduate advisor.



The Graduate Program in the Study of Religion fully subscribes to the **Mentoring Guidelines** approved by the UC Davis Graduate Council in June 1999. These are available online at:

<http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/gradcouncil/policiesall.html>

## **6) Committees:**

### **a) Admissions Committee:**

Once the completed application, all supporting material, and the application fee have been received, the application will be submitted to the Admissions Committee. The Committee consists of program members and a non-voting, ex officio Graduate Advisor. Based on a review of the entire application, a recommendation is made to accept or decline an applicant's request for admission. No student will be admitted without an agreement from a faculty member in the Graduate program to serve as the student's Major Professor. The recommendation of the Admissions Committee is forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval of admission. Notification of admissions decisions will be sent by Graduate Studies. Applications are accepted in the Fall of the previous year for students matriculating in the following fall.

### **b) Qualifying Examination Committee:**

The student, in consultation with his/her Major Professor and Graduate Advisor, nominates four faculty members, to serve on the Qualifying Examination Committee. One of the nominated faculty members will be the major professor, who will not serve as committee chair. At least three of the faculty members nominated must be faculty participating in the GREL; at least one of the faculty members will be from outside the GREL. These nominations are submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for formal appointment in accordance with Graduate Council policy (DDB 80. Graduate Council B.1).

### **c) Preliminary Examination Committee:**

The Preliminary Exam committee consists of three faculty members, at least two of whom must be members of the Religious Studies department. Students may include faculty outside the RST department and those not affiliated with the GREL in their committees for the remaining slot. The Chair of the Preliminary Exam Committee cannot be the student's major professor.

### **d) Dissertation Committee:**

Upon successful advancement to doctoral candidacy, and in consultation with his/her Major Professor and Graduate Advisor, the student will nominate at least three faculty members to serve on the Dissertation Committee. One of these faculty members will act as chair of the committee and as the student's primary dissertation advisor; typically this will be the student's Major Professor. At least two of these committee members, including the committee chair, must be faculty participating in the GREL; at least two of these committee members must have served on the student's qualifying examinations committee. These nominations are submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for formal appointment in accordance with Graduate Council policy (DDB 80. Graduate Council B.1).

## **7) Advancement to Candidacy:**

The student is eligible for Advancement to Candidacy after successful completion of all graduate program degree requirements with a minimum GPA of 3.0 in all coursework undertaken (except those courses grades S or U) and after passing the Qualifying Examination. The normative time for advancing to candidacy is 3 years. The student must file the appropriate paperwork with Graduate Studies and pay the candidacy fee in order to be officially promoted to Ph.D. Candidacy. Refer to the Graduate Council website for additional details regarding the Doctoral Qualifying Examination at

<http://graduatestudies.ucdavis.edu/gradcouncil/Doctoral%20Qualifying%20Examination>

## **8) Dissertation requirements:**

**The Dissertation Plan** is Plan C, as described in section 520 of the Davis Division Academic Senate Regulations. This plan requires a minimum three-member dissertation committee, a final oral examination, and no exit seminar.

## **9) Examination Requirements:**

### **1. Preliminary Examinations:**

Students take the preliminary exam at the end of their second full year of coursework.

### **STRUCTURE OF THE PRELIMINARY EXAM**

The exam consists of three parts:<sup>1</sup>

- a 3-5-page double spaced research statement (written component)
- a research essay (written component)
- a 1.5-hour oral presentation and discussion related to the research statement and essay on the day of the exam (oral component)

### **EVALUATING THE PRELIMINARY EXAM**

The exam will be evaluated as Pass (P)/ No Pass (NP)/ or Provisional Pass (PP)

In the case of a Pass, the exam is considered complete. No further work on the examination will be required.

In the case of a Provisional Pass, the committee will provide specific directions to the student. The student will be required to address the issues within one quarter of completing the Preliminary Exam. In the event the student does not complete the requested work in the designated time, the Provisional Pass will revert to a NP. The student will then be required to take the Preliminary Exams again.

In the case of a No Pass (NP), the student will be given one opportunity to retake the exam. This must be taken within one quarter of the original Preliminary exam.

A student who does not pass the Preliminary Exam on the second attempt shall be recommended to Graduate Studies for disqualification from the Ph.D. program.

The results of all examinations must be reported to Graduate Studies using the Master's Report Form. The Master's Report Form is only needed if the student is earning a Master's en route or as a terminal degree. Ph.D. students who are NOT seeking an M.A. do not need to report the results of the preliminary exam to Grad Studies

### **2. Doctoral Qualifying Examinations:**

Students who have passed the preliminary examinations will take written and oral Doctoral Qualifying Exams before advancing to candidacy.

The written examinations will consist, first, of three three-hour timed examinations to be coordinated by the administrative department over the course of one week (seven calendar days). Students will be allowed to use their own computers, including relevant notes, documents, and materials on those computers, for the examinations. Any suspicion of plagiarism will be reported to and dealt with by OSSJA and may result in expulsion from the University.

After the written examinations have been taken, the examining committee will review the student's work and will schedule an oral examination, at which all members of the examining committee must be present. This examination will typically take place within three weeks of the submission of the written examinations. The oral examination will be based on the student's written examinations and on the material on the student's examination reading list.

The second component of the Doctoral Qualifying Examinations will be the dissertation prospectus, which must be submitted to the Examination Committee during the same quarter in which the written examinations are taken.

**a) The written component of the Qualifying Examination:**

The written examinations will be based on each student's regional and thematic areas of specialization and third area of competence, designed to show an additional area of teaching competence. Thus the written examinations will consist of three parts, covering:

1. The student's regional area of specialization (RAOS)
2. The student's thematic area of specialization (TAOS)
3. The student's area of competence (AOC)

In preparation for their qualifying examinations, each student will compose a reading list in consultation with members of this committee, along with a 1-5 page introduction to the list, which must explain the list's coherence and relation to the student's areas of specialization; this list must be approved by the examining committee chair before the examinations can be scheduled. Examination questions will be based on the material on the student's reading list.

**b) The oral component of the Qualifying Examination:**

The oral portion of the qualifying exam is intended to demonstrate the student's critical thinking ability, powers of critical inquiry and synthesis, and broad knowledge of the field of study. The committee will evaluate the student's general qualifications as well as the student's preparation in a special area of study based upon relevant portions of the student's performance on specific parts of the examination, and the student's potential for scholarly research as indicated during the examination.

**c) Dissertation Prospectus:**

During the same quarter in which the written Qualifying examinations are taken the doctoral candidacy must submit a dissertation prospectus of 10-15 pages, on a topic within the candidate's chosen area of specialization, to their qualifying exam committee during the same quarter in which the timed written examinations are taken. The dissertation prospectus serves as the final component of the Doctoral Qualifying Exams. This prospectus will outline the dissertation project, its methods, thesis, and expected contribution to scholarship, both within the field of specialization and within the field of Religious Studies more broadly. The prospectus must be approved by all members of the examination committee before the candidate begins work on the dissertation. In no case will a dissertation prospectus be approved whose topic lies within an area not covered by a student's qualifying examinations.

The dissertation prospectus must include:

1. The title of the proposed dissertation;
2. A statement of the research question, detailing the specific area and aim of dissertation research;
3. A review of secondary literature relevant to the area of dissertation research;
4. A description of the proposed methodology of the project;
5. A timeline for completion of the project;
6. A preliminary bibliography.

Once the prospectus has been approved by all members of the examination committee, the candidate may begin work on the dissertation.

**d) Outcome of the Qualifying Examination:**

The QE Committee will evaluate the student on their command of their subject area, their written work, which demonstrates their mastery of subject-area bibliographies, the prospectus and the viability of the proposed research and its contributions to the field.

Students will receive a Pass (P)/No Pass (NP)/Fail (F) on the QE.

Pass: if the student passes the exam, work for the QE is understood to be complete and the student may begin work on the dissertation.

No Pass: if the student does not pass the exam, the student will be offered one opportunity to retake the entire exam no later than within a quarter of the original QE date.

Fail: if the student fails the exam, the student is subject to disqualification from the program by the Director of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Graduate Advisor.

**10) The Dissertation (Plan B, no exit seminar required)**

The Ph.D. degree will be awarded upon acceptance by the candidate’s Dissertation Committee of a dissertation whose format is prescribed by Graduate Studies. The Dissertation Committee shall consist of three readers – the dissertation committee chair (Major Professor) plus a second and third reader. Any student with more than one Designated Emphasis must have a committee member to represent each DE. At least one of the committee members must be a member of the core Religious Studies faculty. The student may elect to have a fourth reader if s/he wishes. A prospectus for the dissertation written under the dissertation director’s supervision, must be approved by all members of the committee. The Dissertation Committee is expected to meet with the student on a regular basis, and provides guidance to the student throughout the research and dissertation writing process.

**11) Normative Time to Degree.**

It is anticipated that most students will complete the requirements for the PhD and the dissertation by the end of their sixth year.

**12) Typical Time Line and Sequence of Events:**

Course requirements will typically be satisfied by end of the first quarter of the third year; doctoral qualifying exams will be taken in the third quarter of the third year (9<sup>th</sup> quarter).

Sample program:

Year One	Fall	Winter	Spring
	200A Historical Roots of the Study of Religion	200B Foundational Theories of Religion	200C Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion
	Advanced Language Training	Advanced Language Training	Advanced Language Training
	200 level course (RAOS)	200 level course (RAOS)	200 level course (TAOS)

Year Two	Fall	Winter (advancement to MA candidacy)	Spring
	200 level course (RAOS)	200 level course (RAOS)	200 level course (RAOS/TAOS)
	200 level course (TAOS)	200 level course (TAOS)	Directed Study with GGSR faculty
	Area of Competence (AOC) course	200D Field Profile Seminar for AOSP	200D Field Profile Seminar for AOSP (Preliminary Exam completed)
Year Three	Fall	Winter	Spring (advancement to doctoral candidacy)
	Area of Competence (AOC) course	200 level course (RAOS)	200 level course (RAOS/TAOS)
	200 level course (RAOS/TAOS)	Directed Study with GGSR faculty	Directed Study with GGSR faculty
	Qualifying Exam Preparation	Qualifying Exam Preparation	Qualifying Exams

<b>Year Four</b>	Dissertation Research and Writing
<b>Year Five</b>	Dissertation Research and Writing
<b>Year Six</b>	Complete Dissertation

**13) Sources of Funding:** Most graduate students will be funded by Teaching Assistantships in the Religious Studies program, which currently employs 12-14 TAs per year. In addition, courses of 50 students or more in Religious Studies are currently eligible for funding from the Letters and Sciences Dean's office for Readers; we expect graduate students in the GREL to be the majority of these Readers. Students in the GREL will also apply for both internal and external fellowships and graduate scholarships, and will apply for graduate financial aid as needed.

**14) PELP, In Absentia and Filing Fee status.**

Information about PELP (Planned Educational Leave), In Absentia (reduced fees when researching out of state), and Filing Fee status can be found in the Graduate Student Guide:

<http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/publications/>

**15) Leaving the Program Prior to Completion of the PhD Requirements.**

Should a student leave the program prior to completing the requirements for the PhD, they may still be eligible to receive the Masters if they have fulfilled all the requirements (see Masters section). Students can use the Change of Degree Objective form available from the Registrar's Office: <http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/PDFFiles/D065PetitionForChangeOfGraduateMajor.pdf>