

Summary of Timeline for Ph.D. Candidates

First Semester

- Initial registration with help from your major (or temporary) advisor or ESE Program Office – Cindy Taylor Fate (cynthia@purdue.edu)
- English proficiency needs to be satisfied for foreign students before filing a POS

Second Semester

- Advisory committee selected no later than early in the second semester
- First committee meeting before the end of the second semester
- POS filed before the end of the second semester. Note this approved POS confirms that your course plans will meet any specific course requirements of both ESE your associated academic department.
- Transcripts on file for all previous course work

All subsequent Semesters prior to Preliminary Examination and Last Semester

- Meet with Advisor frequently
- Meet with Advisory Committee twice a year and submit a signed committee meeting report
- Confirm that the courses on your approved POS have not changed (e.g., course was not taught or your committee at some point decided a different course would be better and you never revised your POS accordingly).

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PhD Timeline (continued)

Written & Oral Preliminary Examination (prior to the end of Year 2)

- A proposal must be submitted to your advisory committee at least two weeks before intended examination date.
- Proposal must be reviewed by your advisory committee according to the performance ratings outlined in the Proposal Rubric Evaluation. Copies of the signed rubric forms (one from each committee member present) must be submitted to the ESE Program Head and the graduate secretary of your associated academic department.
- The written and oral preliminary examinations should then proceed, which consist of questions address areas in your proposal, your theme area, and/or the broader area represented by ESE and are given by each committee member. Responses to written preliminary exam questions will be evaluated by each committee member according to the performance ratings outlined in the Written Preliminary Rubric Evaluation.
- Scheduling of exam (graduate school Form 8) must be done two weeks before the dates of the exam. This applies for all oral examinations.
- You MUST have a minimum of two semesters between prelim and final examinations.
- Written & oral preliminary examination – faculty will evaluate you according to the performance ratings outlined in the Oral Preliminary Rubric Evaluation. Signed rubric forms (one from each committee member present) must be submitted to the ESE Program Head and the graduate secretary of your associated academic department.

Start of Last Semester

- Committee meeting to determine if course and research objectives have been or will highly likely to be met prior to the end of the semester and incomplete grades resolved.
- Submit Form 23 to indicate intent to graduate
- First draft of dissertation must be submitted to major professor at least six weeks before intended examination date
- Dissertation draft must be submitted to the advisory committee at least two weeks before intended examination date
- Dissertation draft must be reviewed by your advisory committee according to the performance ratings outlined in the Dissertation Rubric Evaluation. Copies of the signed rubric forms (one from each committee member present) must be submitted to the ESE Program Head and the graduate secretary of your associated academic department.
- Two weeks before the intended examination, request an appointment for an examining committee date.
- At this time students must submit an abstract for their seminar notice to the ESE Graduate Secretary. This will be circulated two weeks before your thesis seminar to the ESE and associated academic department student and faculty list.

PhD Timeline (continued)

Successful Completion of Your Degree

- Again confirm that the courses on your approved POS have not changed (e.g., course was not taught or your committee at some point decided a different course would be better or added a course based on your prelim performance, but you never revised your POS accordingly).
- Pass oral defense by according to the performance ratings outlined in the Ph.D. Dissertation Rubric Evaluation. Signed rubric forms (one from each committee member present) must be submitted to the ESE Program Head and the graduate secretary of your associated academic department.
- Prepare for thesis deposit, which requires approval of Ph.D. advisory committee members and ESE Program Head, and formatted according to the graduate school <http://www.gradschool.purdue.edu/thesis.cfm>