

A Checklist for the PhD Program

Overview

The program has four “stages”:

1. Complete **core and cognate seminars** (ten seminars, 30hrs, required & elective);
2. Research in two **studios** (6hrs) and, through independent studies, mixed possibly with additional seminars, as determined by the student’s chair and committee, in an area of specialization (one primary & two support areas);
3. Prepare a dissertation prospectus and complete **written exams** on the primary and support areas, followed by an **oral multimedia defense** of the exams;
4. Successfully **write and defend** the dissertation.

Core Seminars

15 HOURS

This form is fillable. Check all five boxes in this section when each seminar has been completed and list the year.

8010 Histories of Rhetorics <i>3 hours</i>	8020 Cultural Research <i>3 hours</i>	8030 Empirical Research <i>3 hours</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR
8040 Visual Rhetorics <i>3 hours</i>	8050 Rhetorics, Communication, and Information Technology <i>3 hours</i>	
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR	

Cognate Seminars

15 HOURS

5 cognate courses (e.g., 8110, 8130 multiple times, and/or others as available). Check five of the boxes.

8110 Perspectives on Information Design <i>3 hours</i>	8130 Special Topics <i>3 hours</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR
8130 Special Topics <i>3 hours</i>	8130 Special Topics <i>3 hours</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR
8130 Special Topics <i>3 hours</i>	8130 Special Topics <i>3 hours</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR

Studio

6 HOURS*

8880 Applied Research (Studio I*) <i>3 hours</i>	8880 Applied Research (Studio II*) <i>3 hours</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR	<input type="checkbox"/> _____ YEAR

* In 2024-2025, RCID 8800 (Studio I and II) will be merged into one course (Studio) and the credit hour requirement reduced to 3. The cognate seminar requirement will become 18 credit hours.

A Checklist for the PhD Program

DISSERTATION HOURS

18 HOURS

In the Studio course(s), students begin the dissertation process by choosing a Primary Area and two Secondary Support Areas that will guide their research and be the focus of their comprehensive exams. They also complete a draft of the dissertation prospectus. Students must complete 18 credit hours of RCID 9910 (Dissertation Research). They may also take RCID 8330 (Graduate Readings) while studying for exams and as needed for full-time status (as required for Teaching or Research Assistantships).

Committee Selection

Clemson's Graduate School requires that students select a chair and committee members, then file a Plan of Study (including the **GS2 form**) in their second year and before they complete 36 credit hours (see <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/plan-of-study/index.html>). Students should consult with the RCID director and the Studio professor about committee options. A committee must include at least four advisors, with no more than two from a particular Clemson department. Students may also include one external advisor, subject to the approval of the RCID director, committee chair, and Graduate School.

_____ (chair) _____

Dissertation Prospectus

Following completion of the Studio seminar(s), students submit a polished prospectus to the committee chair for review and further development and revision. If the project includes Human Subject research, **consider whether IRB review may be necessary**. The prospectus becomes the basis of the Comprehensive Exams (written and oral). Once approved by the chair, the prospectus must be reviewed and approved by all committee members. The prospectus may need multiple iterations before approval by the committee. Once approved, A GS-ResearchApproval form must be completed and submitted with the GS5D form (reporting the results of the Comprehensive Exams; see below). For further information about the prospectus genre, please review the *RCID Handbook and Guide for Students and Faculty*.

Comprehensive Exams

Once the prospectus has been approved by the committee, students work with chairs to schedule the comprehensive exams. Students may take their exams in the fall or spring semesters of their third year. There are **three written exams (one primary area [P], two support areas [SA1, SA2], and a pedagogy or application question)** and **an oral and public multimedia presentation (20–30 minutes)** on the dissertation project (4th exam). Students are given the three written exam questions then have two weeks to complete them. Each essay should be no more than 5,000 words. Students may refer to notes and quote and cite sources, but note that essays are not meant for students to showcase that they have read the material but instead to integrate scholarship in responses to the questions.

P _____ SA1 _____ SA2 _____

Presentation title: _____

Dissertation Writing

After successfully completing exams, students write the dissertation in frequent consultation with the chair. The protocol for distribution of dissertation chapters is determined by the chair and the preferences of the committee members. Students may only distribute chapters after approval by the chair.

Dissertation Defense

The defense consists of a 20 to 30 minute formal and public multimedia presentation of the research and discussion with the public audience followed by private consultation with the committee. Dissertations may be approved solely by the student's chair and committee, provided the dissertation also meets guidelines established by the Graduate School. Graduating students should notify chairs well in advance of the graduation semester and must formally apply to graduate with the Graduate School early in the relevant semester. Students and chairs should familiarize themselves with all graduation deadlines here: <https://www.clemson.edu/graduate/students/deadlines.html>. Upon approval of the dissertation and successful defense, the chair with the committee will submit a completed **form GS7D** to the Graduate School.

Hooding

PhD hooding ceremonies take place at the end of fall, spring, and summer semesters and are scheduled by the Graduate School. Additional awards ceremonies may occur on graduation day.