

Texas A&M University I-O Psychology PhD. Program
Optimal Timeline Milestones to Completing your PhD in 5 years
August 25, 2023

Year	Semester ^a	Event	Description
1	Fall	First Year Project	Work with your advisor to identify a first-year project and dive into the corresponding research literature. Also, identify a preliminary thesis topic.
1	Spring	Master's degree plan	File your master's degree plan online with GPS. This requires you to identify your (at least a preliminary) thesis committee, which must consist of 2 psychology faculty and one faculty member from outside of psychology. Your chair must be an I-O psychology faculty member. (GPS: 90 days before thesis defense; required by March 1st of 1st yr)
1	Summer	Finalize thesis topic	Come to consensus with your advisor concerning your thesis topic and general research questions/hypotheses.
2	October	SIOP Deadline	The deadline for submitting posters and symposia to the SIOP conference (usually held in April) is either the first or second Wed in October. Aim to submit <i>at least</i> your first year project.
2	October	First Year Poster Session	Present your first year poster in a poster session to the department.
2	Fall	Master's Thesis Proposal	The thesis proposal consists of the introduction, proposed methods, and proposed analyses sections of your thesis. Once your advisor approves the proposal, send it to your committee. Provide the committee with a <u>minimum of 2 weeks</u> to review the document in advance of the defense. Schedule a date to defend the proposal to your committee. Note, it can sometimes take 2 weeks just to find a date that works for all. You will need to book a room for a 2 hour timeslot.
2	Summer (early June for Aug graduation)	Master's Thesis Defense	The final thesis document contains the proposal revised to reflect committee feedback, plus results and discussion. Similar to the proposal, once your advisor approves the completed document, send it to the full committee. Provide the committee with a <u>minimum of 2 weeks</u> to review the document in advance of the defense. Schedule a date to defend the thesis to your committee. You will need to book a room for a 2-hour timeslot.
2	Summer	Apply to graduate	The first week of your final semester toward your master's degree, apply to graduate.
3	Summer	Written Comprehensive Exam	This is a comprehensive written exam to assess whether students have adequate mastery of the subject matter in the field. See separate comprehensive exam policy.
3	Summer	PhD degree plan	File your PhD degree plan online with GPS. This requires you to identify your dissertation committee which must consist of 3 psychology faculty and 1 faculty member from outside of psychology. Your chair must be an I-O psychology faculty member. (GPS: 90 days before prelim = oral comps)
4	Fall	Oral Comprehensive Exam	This is the oral component of the comprehensive exam. You are eligible to take the oral exam only if you pass at least 2 sections of the written exam. This oral exam should take place within 4-6 weeks of you receiving your written exam scores. (GPS: comprehensive exam results due 14 weeks before proposal defense). This exam expires in 4 years. GPS requires you to retake it if you do not graduate within 4 years of this exam.
4	Spring	Dissertation Proposal	The dissertation proposal consists of the introduction, proposed methods, and proposed analyses sections of your dissertation. Once your advisor approves the proposal, send it to your committee. Provide the committee with a <u>minimum of 2 weeks</u> to review the document in advance of the proposal defense. Schedule a date to defend the dissertation proposal to your committee. You will need to book a room for a 2-hour timeslot. (GPS: submit dissertation proposal 20 days before proposal defense, include IRB #)
4	Spring	Apply for internships at SIOP	Applied career track → Interview for internship opportunities at the SIOP Conference in April. It is strongly advised that you defend your dissertation proposal before you go on internship.
5	Fall	Apply for academic jobs	It is highly unlikely that any department is going to consider an application that is submitted without first having successfully defended the dissertation proposal to be competitive. So, you should defend your dissertation proposal

			before applying for academic jobs. Some psychology jobs have deadlines as early as Oct 1.
5	Summer	Apply to graduate	The first week of your final semester, apply to graduate.
5	Summer (early June for Aug graduation)	Dissertation Defense	The final dissertation document contains the proposal revised to reflect committee feedback, plus results and discussion. Similar to the proposal, once your advisor approves the completed document, send it to the full committee. Provide the committee with a <u>minimum of 2 weeks</u> to review the document in advance of the defense. Schedule a date to defend the dissertation to your committee. You will need to book a room for a 2-hour timeslot. (GPS: must submit request to defend 10 working days before defense. Submit final defense paperwork within 10 days of the exam.)

^aThese semesters/months are the latest you should be reaching each of these milestones. Reaching them earlier is fine. Please check GPS website (<http://grad.tamu.edu/>) for exact deadlines each semester and all required forms to bring to your various defenses. Every year, keep the following annual events in mind: May annual evaluation, Oct ~10 SIOP conference deadline.