

Institute for Public Health Genetics

Ph.D. Program

Sample Progress Timeline

(Updated September 10, 2014)

Doctoral students are expected to complete the Ph.D. in Public Health Genetics degree program, including the dissertation project, in approximately 4 years. The absolute time limit, set by the UW Graduate School, is 10 years for degree completion, including time spent on leave or not registered.

The following are **sample** annual timelines for the program. Actual student schedules will often vary considerably from this sample. Each autumn quarter, students should file his/her progress form with the IPHG office.

Year 1

- Complete first year of coursework in preparation for the Ph.D. Preliminary Examination.
- Begin to develop ideas for a dissertation topic. Explore possibilities and opportunities by consulting with your academic advisor and talk with other faculty members you may be interested in working with on your research.

Year 2

- Complete coursework in preparation for Ph.D. Preliminary Examination in the spring.
- Continue to explore possible dissertation topics, through your RA position, training grant, or other opportunities.
- Study for the Preliminary Examination with other students if possible.
- Take Preliminary Exam in June (be sure to complete and file the Notification of Intent to Take the Preliminary Exam Form by the end of April.)

Years 1 and 2: Sample Timeline for Course Requirements

Students are encouraged to take the Ph.D. Preliminary Examination upon completion of the required coursework in the Fundamental Areas of Study (Public Health and Human Genetics) and in the two core knowledge areas: A) Genomics and Public Health, and B) Implications of Genetics for Society. [Recommended Courses in brackets] *substitute courses in italics*

	<i>AUTUMN</i>	<i>WINTER</i>	<i>SPRING</i>
YEAR 1	PHG 512 (3)	PHG 513 (3)	PHG 511 (3)
	EPI 511 (4) (or EPI 512 (4) and EPI 513 (4) in Winter)		PHG 521 (3)
	BIOST 511, (4) (or BIOST 517 (4))	EPI 513 (4) (if EPI 512 in Autumn)	
	HSERV 511 (3)	ENVH 511(3) [BIOST 512 (4) or 518 (4)]	
	PHG 580 (1)	PHG 580 (1)	PHG 580 (1)

	<i>AUTUMN</i>	<i>WINTER</i>	<i>SPRING</i>
YEAR 2	PHG 523 (3) PHG 551 (4) (or GENOME 565 (4) in Winter)	PHG 542 (3)	
	[PHG 519 (3)]	GENOME 565 (4) (or PHG 551 (4) in Fall)	SELECTIVE
	[GENOME 552 (1.5)]	[PHG 553 (3)]	
	PHG 580 (1)	PHG 580 (1)	PHG 580 (1)

Year 3

- Become familiar with the Graduate School website:

<http://www.grad.washington.edu/students>

You will find information here on resources, policies, procedures, scheduling exams, deadlines, etc.

- After passing the preliminary exam, develop your dissertation topic and begin to assemble your dissertation committee.
- Take selective coursework related to your dissertation project.
- Set up your dissertation supervisory committee formally by end of autumn quarter at the latest. (See Ph.D. Guidelines, Part 2, for details).
- Obtain approval of your topic from your dissertation committee.
- Apply to the Human Subjects Division for approval of your research if necessary.
- Begin dissertation research
- Prepare for general examination, including your formal dissertation proposal.
- Have regular meetings with your committee members – we recommend at least once a quarter.
- Take general exam by end of year 3 if at all possible. Schedule the exam online at www.grad.washington.edu/mygrad/student.htm. Notify the Graduate Program Assistant (GPA) to print the Warrant which you should take to the exam and then return the signed form to the GPA.

Year 4

- Review the Graduate School's policies, procedures, requirements, and deadlines via their website: www.grad.washington.edu/students. Pay particular attention to the information and instructions for submitting an Electronic Dissertation:

www.grad.washington.edu/students/etd/info.shtml.

- Complete dissertation research project.
- Write draft of the dissertation document.
- Provide draft(s) of the dissertation document to your committee members for review on a regular basis.
- Give them at least 2 weeks to review each draft.
- Continue to revise the dissertation document based on your committee's comments and suggestions as often as needed.
- Obtain the necessary signatures on the Doctoral Dissertation Reading Committee Approval Form (www.grad.washington.edu/students/etd/phd-approval-form.pdf). Give committee members a reasonable amount of time to sign (usually two to three weeks; again, be aware of faculty's other commitments such as teaching and traveling).
- During the quarter you plan to graduate, schedule your final exam online. See www.grad.washington.edu/mygrad/student.htm. Notify the Graduate Program Assistant (GPA) to print the Warrant which you should take to the exam and then return the signed form to the GPA. Your degree request will then be approved online and the Graduate School can proceed to award your degree.