

THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO  
**Divinity School**

**Doctoral Student Handbook**

*Autumn 2023*

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## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b> .....	3
<b>GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PH.D. PROGRAM</b> .....	5
<b>KEY COMPETENCIES</b> .....	5
<b>ADHEARANCE TO UNIVERSITY POLICIES</b> .....	6
<b>MAXIMUM REGISTRATION</b> .....	6
<b>REQUIREMENTS</b> .....	7
COURSEWORK.....	7
COURSE OF STUDY PETITION.....	8
<i>Elements of the Course of Study Petition</i> .....	8
<i>Course of Study Petition Example</i> .....	11
SECOND-YEAR PROGRESS CONFERENCE .....	12
LANGUAGES.....	12
QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS .....	13
<i>Written Examinations</i> .....	14
<i>Research Paper</i> .....	14
<i>Oral Examination</i> .....	15
<i>Grading Examinations</i> .....	15
<i>Examiners</i> .....	15
<i>Change of Examiners and Examinations</i> .....	16
<i>Qualifying Examination Bibliographies</i> .....	16
<i>Timelines, Eligibility, and Registration for the Qualifying Exams</i> .....	16
PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING PLAN.....	16
<i>PTP Recommended Framework</i> .....	18
<i>PTP Recommended Framework Chart</i> .....	20
<i>PTP Transition Plan</i> .....	23
<i>PTP Transition Plan FAQs</i> .....	27
THE DISSERTATION.....	31
<i>The Dissertation Advisor and Reading Committee</i> .....	31
<i>External Faculty as Members of the Dissertation Committee</i> .....	32
<i>Advancing to Candidacy</i> .....	32
<i>The Dissertation Proposal</i> .....	33
<i>Presenting Work</i> .....	35
<i>Midpoint Review</i> .....	35
<i>Public Oral Defense of the Dissertation</i> .....	35
<i>Final Submission</i> .....	36
ANNUAL REVIEW.....	37
<b>FUNDING</b> .....	39
DIVINITY SCHOOL FELLOWSHIPS.....	39
 <b>ADDITIONAL POLICIES &amp; PROCEDURES</b> .....	 40
THE COMMITTEE ON DOCTORAL STUDIES.....	40

<i>Minor Petitions</i> .....	41
<i>Changing Area of Study</i> .....	42
ACADEMIC PROBATION POLICY.....	43
APPLICATION TO THE PH.D. FOR M.A. AND M.DIV. STUDENTS.....	44
DUAL PH.D. PROGRAMS.....	44
TA APPOINTMENTS.....	44
TA SELECTION GUIDELINES.....	44
CERTIFICATE IN RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP FOR PHD STUDENTS.....	45
<b>RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES</b> .....	46
<b>TYPICAL DOCTORAL PROGRAM COURSE OF STUDY</b> .....	48

## **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF THE PH.D. PROGRAM**

The Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) program is a rigorous, interdisciplinary course of study that prepares students for careers in research, teaching, and publicly-engaged leadership. Doctoral students conduct original and advanced research in pursuit of expert knowledge about the human phenomenon of religion as currently organized in one of eleven Areas of Study (Anthropology and Sociology of Religion; Bible; History of Christianity; History of Judaism; History of Religions; Islamic Studies; Philosophy of Religions; Religions in America; Religion, Literature, and Visual Culture; Religious Ethics; and Theology), or through a multidisciplinary course of study designed by the student in consultation with faculty. Through the program and its distinctive interdisciplinary rigor, students develop a sophisticated grasp of methods and theories in a chosen field, gain a broad understanding of religion as a phenomenon that exceeds any single approach or disciplinary orientation, and join others in the creation of new knowledge.

As a community of scholars, the Ph.D. program works in a collaborative nature both within Areas of study and between them as well as with colleagues across and beyond the University. This collaborative work continues in the classroom that offers an invaluable, non-tutorial model of education. In this way, Ph.D. students along with faculty carry on the work of scholarship in ways that forge collegueship between students and among students and faculty.

## **KEY COMPETENCIES**

Key competencies developed by doctoral students at the Divinity School can be divided into four categories as indicated below. The first two categories are, usually, achieved during the period of coursework and qualifying examinations while the latter two categories relate more clearly to research and teaching. That being said, this is a distinction and not a separation, and, therefore, a student is, in fact, developing all of these competencies throughout each step of the course of study. These categories should guide yearly evaluations of student progress.

- A. Basic Knowledge and Competence in the Study of Religion and a Field of Study.
  - 1. Required knowledge of the field and the study of religion, including issues of theory and method.
  - 2. Range of knowledge in primary sources in a field of study and the academic study of religion, and the ability and sensitivity to critically analyze and interpret this material.
  - 3. Linguistic competencies.
  - 4. Effectiveness in academic writing, including the formulation of arguments, marshaling of evidence, and clarity of method.
  - 5. The power of oral self-expression and communication.
  
- B. Methodological Sophistication in the Study of Religion and Field of Study.
  - 1. Grasp of the major methods for the study of religion as a human phenomenon.
  - 2. The critical sensibility and capacity to analyze secondary literature in the student's field of study and about the study of religion.
  - 3. The ability to design, undertake, and complete a research project in a timely and professional fashion.

- C. Originality of Research within a Field of Study and Defining an Intellectual Identity.
  1. Disciplinary self-understanding as a scholar of religion and within a specialty. A scholar must be able to situate their work and research within the debates found in a field about method and content. This self-understanding is crucial for one's intellectual identity and originality in a field of inquiry.
  2. Originality of research contribution as recognized within one's field of study.
  
- D. Capacity for Engagement about the Study of Religion and one's own research.
  1. The Divinity School has always been committed to being a "teacher of teachers." Given this, a key competency is the ability to teach at various levels of instruction and in different institutional contexts.
  2. The Divinity School has long been engaged with issues of the public understanding of religion, acknowledging the various publics (e.g., academic, religious, political, civil) in which expressions of religion are to be found. Given this commitment to public discourse and understanding, a crucial competency is the ability to translate one's scholarly work for the sake of intelligent and informed discussion of religion in broader publics.

Once again, the above categories of competencies are not strictly delineated; they are in fact deeply interrelated facets of our scholarly work.

### **ADHERANCE TO UNIVERSITY POLICIES**

Doctoral students are held to all policies of the University of Chicago and the Divinity School. The Student Manual is the official statement of policies and regulations and expected standards of student conduct that are applicable to all students at the University of Chicago. Any student conduct that violates these policies and regulations may become a matter for action within the University's system of student discipline. The Divinity School policies and procedures are contained in the Announcements. Students should read and become familiar with the expectations outlined in the [Student Manual](#) and [Announcements](#).

### **MAXIMUM REGISTRATION**

The Divinity School has a maximum registration for all Ph.D. students.

Students that matriculated before Summer 2016 have twelve (12) years to complete the program. This is inclusive of all leaves of absences. In other words, if a student takes a leave of absence, the 12-year clock does not stop.

Students that matriculated during or after Summer 2016 but before Summer 2021 have nine (9) years of enrollment to complete the program. If a student takes a leave of absence, the 9-year clock stops until the student resumes enrollment in the program.

Students that matriculate into the Ph.D. program in Summer 2021 or later have seven (7) years of enrollment to complete the program. If a student takes a leave of absence, the 7-year clock stops until the student resumes enrollment in the program. Students with a 7-year maximum registration may

petition for additional time in the program, up to one year, if they receive external funding. These petitions are typically for additional language study or fieldwork, and the external funding must award at least two-thirds of the annual living stipend for doctoral students. Students must submit a Minor Petition to the Committee on Doctoral Studies to petition for a maximum registration extension. The petition must include the external award letter and application materials for the award. It is recommended that students submit these petitions when receiving the external award. Only students with a 7-year time clock who receive external funding may apply for an extension to the maximum registration.

Students that exhaust their maximum registration time limit will be administratively withdrawn from the program.

## PROGRAMMATIC MILESTONES

To earn a Ph.D. at the Divinity School eight milestones must be met: 1) coursework; 2) course of study petition; 3) second-year progress conference; 4) language requirement; 5) qualifying examinations; 6) pedagogical training plan (PTP) for students that matriculated in Summer 2016 or later; teaching assignments under the Graduate Aid Initiative (GAI); 7) dissertation, including proposal and colloquium, midpoint review, and defense; and 8) yearly progress reviews

## COURSEWORK

Coursework in the doctoral program allows students to explore the history, theories, methods, thinkers, and texts in a chosen field of study. The Ph.D. at the Divinity School requires a minimum of two additional years of coursework beyond the masters-level. This coursework provides our graduates with a broad foundation in their chosen field as well as depth of knowledge in their research specialty. To these ends, doctoral students must meet the following requirements:

- A. Satisfactory completion (at least a B level) of a minimum of twelve (12) courses with quality grades (not pass/fail or audit) that are significant for their course of study during the first two years of their program, including four (4) quality grades by the beginning of Spring Quarter of the first year.
  1. Note that the Divinity School modified its grading practices to allow students greater flexibility to deal with the circumstances of the Covid-19 pandemic for the Spring 2020 quarter. Divinity School doctoral students were allowed to take any class offered by the Divinity School on a Pass/Fail basis in the Spring 2020 quarter, except those meeting any language requirements. Doctoral students that took courses on a pass/fail basis during Spring 2020 will remain in good academic standing, as long as all other milestones are met. Courses taken on a Pass/Fail basis during Spring 2020 will count toward the 12-quality grade course requirement for doctoral students. Hence, doctoral students will **not** have to take additional courses to make up for any courses taken on a Pass/Fail basis in the Spring 2020 quarter.
  2. Courses taken for quality grade in any of the University's-approved consortia/academic exchange programs (i.e. Seminary bi-registration, Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA), Chicago Metropolitan Exchange Program (CMEP), and IvyPlus Exchange Scholars Program) will count toward the coursework milestone. Participation in any of these programs must be pre-approved by the student's faculty advisor, Director of Doctoral Studies, and Dean of Students. Upon completion of the program, students must submit a grade report to the Dean of Students. Students must earn a grade at least a "B" in these courses.
- B. Doctoral students may not take any courses that satisfy a language requirement on a Pass/Fail basis.
- C. One of the 12 courses mentioned above must be the required seminar DVSC 51000- Theories and Methods in the Study of Religion for first-year doctoral students, normally offered in the Autumn Quarter.
- D. For students matriculating in Summer 2020 and after, no more than six of the twelve courses required in the first two years of the Ph.D. program can be language classes. Three of the

nonlanguage classes should result in a significant piece of scholarly writing (at least 15 pages). Students still in the coursework phase of the program that matriculated in Summer 2019 or earlier are recommended, but not required, to follow these rules to better prepare for the 2<sup>nd</sup> year conference and qualifying exams.

**All coursework requirements must be met before a student takes qualifying exams.**

## COURSE OF STUDY PETITION

The Course of Study Petition is an outline of the student's anticipated program of study. It allows the student to identify their Area, faculty advisor(s), languages of study, proposed comprehensive exams, and outline of pedagogical and professional development training plan. The Course of Study Petition must be approved by the student's advisor and proposed examiners and is often reviewed by the faculty in the student's Area of concentration. The Course of Study Petition is then submitted to the Committee on Doctoral Studies for review and approval via the appropriate form available on the Forms for Current Students [website](#). All Course of Study Petitions must be submitted to the Committee on Doctoral Studies for review and approval by the Friday of the 9<sup>th</sup> week of the spring quarter of the first year, unless otherwise announced by the Dean of Students Office.

### Elements of the Course of Study Petition

The Course of Study petition includes a cover sheet (see below for formatting instructions) and statement. The cover sheet identifies the student's proposed comprehensive exams, the languages the student will use to fulfill their language requirements (both modern research languages and Area specific languages), their Advisor(s), teaching mentor, teaching plan, and professional development goals.

After the cover sheet, students must include the Course of Study Petition statement, a 1,000-word statement that outlines the work that the student intends to do in the doctoral program through qualifying examinations.

The statement should clearly communicate the student's understanding of the proposed Area of concentration (either one of the 11 standing Areas or the multi-area course of study) and how the course of study described addresses the work of that chosen field. It should indicate the broad content area and methods in which the student situates their work as well as the narrower topic, research questions, and methods in which they intend to work. The statement should indicate the rationale for each of the four written examinations they will take. (Please see the section on Qualifying Exams below for more details.) If the program involves significant work elsewhere in the University or field research, the student should indicate what plans have been or will be made to pursue it.

If the student does not intend to formally associate with a standing Area of the Divinity School, the faculty listed as examiners in the Course of Study Petition will serve as the committee evaluating the student's yearly progress until the student reaches candidacy. The student should provide a description of and an intellectual rationale structuring their course of study in this way, clearly communicating the student's understanding of the proposed field of study and how the course of study described addresses

the work of that field. The student should also indicate why it is necessary to structure their course of study outside of an existing Area.

Additionally, the Course of Study Petition statement must explain the rationale for the modern research languages indicated and demonstrate that the languages are of central scholarly importance to the student's program (i.e., that the scholarly literature in the language is significant). The petition should also indicate whether the University offers a reading examination in the language or, in cases when such an examination is unavailable, explain how the student will certify reading competence.

If the student's Area has additional language requirements, the Course of Study petition should also indicate how the student will fulfill those requirements. Students should consult with their Advisor and Area Guidelines about additional language requirements.

The student should also explain in their Course of Study Petition how they plan to fulfill the requirements of the Pedagogical Training Plan (PTP). An explanation of each element is required in addition to the summary in the cover page as noted above. The explanation should include the following elements. If the student has completed any of the following elements, that information should be indicated both in the narrative explanation and on the cover page above.

- A. An explanation of why the teaching mentor was chosen.
- B. A discussion of when the student plans to fulfill the required pedagogical training elements of the plan (Chicago Center for Teaching's Teaching@Chicago Workshop, Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop (required for students who matriculate during or after the Summer of 2021, recommended for student who matriculate earlier), and the Course Design and College Teaching Course (CCTE 50000).
- C. A list of any additional pedagogical training such as the Craft of Teaching Certificate, Critical Pedagogy in the University Classroom (CCTE 50200), the Chicago Center for Teaching Certificate, CTC Emphasis on Writing Pedagogy, CTC course in Second Language Pedagogy, or ICT course consultation while teaching a stand-alone course that the student plans to undertake as well as an explanation of how such activities will help the student in their pedagogical goals.
- D. A description of which teaching experiences the student plans to complete including the timeframe for completion. The student should indicate why these experiences will be a valuable contribution to their pedagogical development. If the student plans to have teaching experiences that require certain pedagogical training (i.e. serve as a writing intern, writing lector, or serve as an instructor of record for a language course), they should indicate when they will complete this training.
- E. An indication of when the student plans to complete their teaching statement.

Finally, the Course of Study Petition should outline the student's timeline for milestones occurring through candidacy- the Second Year Conference, Qualifying Examinations, and the Dissertation Proposal Colloquium.

Students are expected to successfully complete the milestones in the timeline articulated in each section of this handbook. In some cases, a student may have pedagogical reasons for proposing a course of study that does not conform to the prescribed milestone completion timeline. In these instances, the petition must include a substantive rationale for the desired timeline. Such examples might include students needing to take coursework in the third year for an Area that does not typically require it to better prepare for qualifying examinations, or a student needing to take additional language coursework in preparation for qualifying examinations and/or dissertation proposal colloquium, etc. Students are encouraged to work with their faculty advisors, examiners, and Area faculty to determine the best course of study to achieve their research, pedagogical, and professional goals. Once approved, any changes to the course of study, must be approved by the Committee on Doctoral Studies via Minor Petition (see Minor Petition section). Please note that approved extensions to the milestone completion timeline do not change the maximum registration of the program (see Maximum Registration section).

If the Course of Study Petition does not contain the above elements in a way clearly comprehensible to other scholars engaged in the academic study of religion, regardless of discipline, or if the proposal is either too narrow or lacks specificity, the proposal may not be approved. The Committee on Doctoral Studies will write a letter to each student submitting a Course of Study Petition that indicates whether their petition is approved. The letter may indicate a clear approval; a provisional approval if clarification on a minor point is required; or a rejection, if an element of the petition is missing or is insufficiently explained. This letter, regardless of outcome, will also include any observations or suggestions the Committee on Doctoral Studies may have. Students are expected to respond to a provisional approval or a rejection within the specified timeline. A student who fails to submit a Course of Study Petition or does not respond to a provisional approval or rejection within the specified timeline will be considered to no longer be making satisfactory academic progress and may be placed on probation or removed from the program by the Committee on Doctoral Studies.

#### Faculty Advisors

All Divinity School doctoral students must have a faculty advisor. Faculty advisors must be members of the Divinity School's full faculty. Associated faculty members and faculty members at the University of Chicago but external to the Divinity School may serve as faculty co-advisors to Divinity doctoral students and candidates if they co-advise with a member of the Divinity School's full faculty. Emeritus faculty may serve as a faculty advisor within one year of retirement. After a year, a co-advisor who is a member of the Divinity School's full faculty must be appointed. Students with approved course of study petitions will need to submit a minor petition to the Committee on Doctoral Studies to name the co-advisor. The co-advisor must agree to serve in this capacity. See section on minor petitions for more information.

Faculty members unaffiliated with the University of Chicago may serve as co-advisors with a full faculty member of the Divinity School.

## SECOND-YEAR PROGRESS CONFERENCE

These conferences are normally held in the spring quarter of the second year. Students and advisors are responsible for scheduling the conference in the Spring Quarter of the second year.

Conferences are held with the respective Area's guidelines and will include a review of the student's course of study petition, assessment of coursework to date, assessment of the student's readiness for qualifying examinations, development toward the dissertation project, progress regarding the PTP, and a review of the student's career plans. Students are required to submit a substantive research paper for discussion at the conference. Students should consult their Advisor and Area guidelines for specific requirements for the conference paper.

For students who have not affiliated with an Area, the advisor, together with the faculty who have agreed to write qualifying examinations for the student, will convene a conference with the student.

The progress conference will be held for approximately an 1 hour, 15 minutes; 90 minutes maximum.

Following the conference, a report from the Advisor and a timeline for the qualifying examinations is submitted to the Dean of Students for review by the Committee on Doctoral Studies. This form is available on the Information for Faculty [website](#). If a student fails the conference, the student is considered to no longer be making satisfactory academic process and may be placed on academic probation or withdrawn from the program by the Committee on Doctoral Studies.

## LANGUAGES

A foundational commitment of the Divinity School is the notion that intellectual citizenship requires multilingual proficiency. The Divinity School therefore requires all its doctoral students to demonstrate academic reading comprehension in two (2) modern research languages as required for the student's research in addition to any language requirements of the student's chosen field of study. Modern research languages enable students to engage with scholarly literature in their chosen field of study and across the broader field of religious studies.

To meet this requirement, students may take the Academic Reading Competency Assessment (ARCA). The ARCA is an instrument designed to measure students' ability to conduct academic research by reading in a secondary research language. Texts have been submitted by Divinity School faculty for the exams. These texts examine general theories and methods in the academic study of religion, instead of discipline-specific texts. Students register for the ARCA as a course during the regular registration periods. Sample ARCA tests are available online at the UChicago Language Assessment Office website. Students taking the ARCA exam must earn a grade of High Pass (P\*) to satisfy the language requirement.

Students may also take a Reading for Research Purposes course (e.g. FREN/GRMN/SPAN 33333) offered by the University of Chicago Language Center. Students who elect to take a Reading for Research Purposes course must earn a grade of A to satisfy the language requirement. Any pre-requisite or language preparatory/intensive courses taken do not satisfy the language requirement.

Students admitted to the Ph.D. program from either the Divinity School's MA or M.DIV program who earned a High Pass (P\*) on the ARCA or an "A" in the Research for Reading Purposes course for the masters-level language requirement can count this as one of the doctoral modern research language requirements if deemed appropriate for their course of study.

Students should consult with their advisor and, as part of their Course of Study Petition, propose a mechanism for demonstrating academic reading competency for languages not offered by the University of Chicago Language Center or for those not assessed through the ARCA or Reading for Research Purposes course. If a Divinity School faculty member is able to administer an exam in the language, that is the preferred method. If no Divinity School faculty member can administer such an exam, coursework may be used to demonstrate the appropriate level of competency. Each case will be considered on its own merits.

Individual Areas of Study may maintain their own additional language exam requirements. Students should consult with their Advisor and Area guidelines about additional language requirements.

Students with an approved course of study may request to change their modern research language requirements by submitting a Minor Petition to the Committee on Doctoral Studies. The petition should include the approved language(s), the requested change(s), the method of assessment for the new language(s), a statement that explains how the new language(s) will support the course of study, and a brief bibliography of works in the new language(s) connected to the course of study.

**All modern research language requirements and Area specific language requirements must be met before a student takes qualifying exams.**

## QUALIFYING EXAMINATIONS

The Qualifying Examinations consist of the four written examinations specified in the student's Course of Study Petition, a research paper, and a concluding oral examination focused on the research paper and the written examinations. Exams should be drawn from among those offered by the Areas of study as best suited to the student's program in accordance with Area guidelines. All doctoral students are required to take one written examination outside of their Area.

The process of study leading up to qualifying examinations provides an opportunity for systematic consideration of the student's field of professional competence in the chosen field of study as well as in at least one other related field. These studies aim to prepare the student for dissertation work and a lifetime of professional work engaged with the academic study of religion. The consistent feedback from graduates about the examinations is that precisely because they are demanding, they provide a wealth of knowledge increasingly unique among graduate programs. This foundation gives our students grounds for confidence in their field of study and thereby supports careers of teaching and research, as well as careers outside the academy. The examination itself is intended to demonstrate the student's general knowledge of the scholarship in these professional fields of competence, the student's intellectual relationship to the field, and the student's readiness to pursue a dissertation.

### Timelines, Eligibility, and Registration for the Qualifying Exams

Qualifying examinations are to be completed according to the timeline outlined in the Second-Year Progress Conference. For students in most Areas, qualifying examinations will occur in the Spring quarter of the third year, while students in Bible and ASR generally take them in year four. Students who are not taking exams by the end of their third year, whether due to the timeline outlined in their Second Year Progress Conference or otherwise, will undergo a third-year review as described under Annual Reviews.

The Dean of Students Office assists the student and faculty in scheduling the examinations and is responsible for the receipt and distribution of the written examination questions and responses.

Students must register for examinations by the first Friday of the quarter in which the examinations are to be held, using a form available on the Forms for Current Students [website](#). Before a student is approved to take qualifying exams, they must have completed the required coursework, modern research language requirements, Area-specific language requirements, and successfully completed a second-year progress conference. Students may not have Incomplete grades for their 12 required courses but may have Incomplete grades beyond the required 12 courses. The research paper written by the student to be considered during the oral examination should be submitted to all examiners during the first week of the quarter in which the student takes the qualifying examination. Written exams are taken during week 5 and 6 as described above. The oral examination is typically scheduled in week 7 or 8.

### Written Examinations

The written examinations assess students' ability to organize, synthesize, and analyze a substantial body of knowledge and reading in response to questions set by the faculty. Exams are taken on Monday and Thursday during the fifth and sixth weeks of each quarter. Students are expected to sign an exam protocol form, attesting to the method of the exam and academic integrity. After students register for exams, the Dean of Students Office will contact each examining student with further exam instructions and protocols. Staff from the Dean of Students Office proctor exams in Swift Hall (or online if conditions require such a format). Students are expected to take their exams at these set times unless extenuating circumstances warrant a different arrangement, which must be approved by the Dean of Students. In such cases, the student should be in touch with the Dean of Students office at least two weeks in advance for arrangements to be made. Each written examination is four hours in length. The optimal length of a student's answer to any one set of examination questions is a total of 3,000 to 4,500 words, or ten to fifteen typed, double-spaced pages. Decisions about whether an examination is open- or closed-book are at the discretion of each examiner.

### Research Paper

Based on consultation between the student and the student's Advisor, the research paper will ordinarily have as its topic a subject in the student's intended area of dissertation research. It should indicate the student's capacity for writing a dissertation. The paper should be twenty-five to forty pages, typed and double-spaced and should be submitted to all examiners in the first week of the quarter in which the student plans to take the qualifying examination.

## Oral Examination

The oral examination assesses students' ability to engage in discussion of issues relevant to their fields of competence. It normally takes place in the seventh or eighth week of the quarter and lasts approximately three (3) hours. Students should consult with their Advisor (who chairs the oral examination) about the format of the exam. Generally, the exam will proceed roughly as follows: Approximately the first thirty minutes of the examination period is a meeting for the faculty alone to confer about the written materials and develop questions and points of discussion. When the student joins the faculty the examination generally begins with the student making comments for 5-8 minutes to clarify, correct, or develop one or more key ideas from the material under review. Faculty proceed to ask questions about the student's statement and exams. After approximately 90 minutes of discussion with the student, the discussion turns to the paper for approximately 30 minutes. The student is asked to leave the room so faculty can deliberate about the student's performance. The faculty assign grades for individual exams and come to agreement on the student's strengths and places to improve. This material is noted on the [Oral Examination Evaluation Form](#) to be submitted to the Dean of Students Office (available on the Information for Faculty [website](#)). The student is then asked to come back to the room and given the results of the examination. The Advisor may meet with the student individually to give more in-depth feedback. Preferably, the oral examination occurs in person. However, the oral examination may be held online. The student and/or examiner(s) may participate virtually or via phone as needed.

## Grading Examinations

The Dean of Students collects provisional grades on the written examinations at least three (3) days before the scheduled Oral Examination and shares them with the examining committee. The student's Advisor convenes the oral examination and leads the committee's discussion of assigning grades. All examiners must report final grades to the Dean of Students office after the oral exam, using the [Oral Examination Evaluation Form](#), available on the Dean of Students Office website.

Both the written and oral examinations are graded on the following scale:

- A Outstanding
- A- Very Good
- B+ Good
- B Acceptable
- B- Fail

To achieve a passing grade on the qualifying examination, a student must score B (Acceptable) or higher on all examinations. Grades on qualifying examinations are not subject to further review and failed qualifying examinations may not be retaken. Students who do not pass the Qualifying Examinations will be withdrawn from the program.

## Examiners

Students must have four examiners; three must be members of the Divinity School full faculty. Any exam taken with affiliated faculty of the Divinity School, faculty members in other departments at the *University of Chicago Divinity School Doctoral Student Handbook- Autumn 2023*

University of Chicago, and/or faculty members external to the University of Chicago must have a co-examiner that is a member of the Divinity School's full faculty. Emeritus faculty may administer exams within one year of retirement. After one year has elapsed, a co-examiner must be added. The co-examiner must be a member of the Divinity School's full faculty.

#### Changing Examiners or Examinations

A student who wishes to change exams or examiners must submit a Minor Petition to the Committee on Doctoral Studies as described in the section on Minor Petitions further on in this Handbook.

#### Qualifying Exam Bibliographies

Students are entitled to be examined on the Qualifying Exam bibliographies in effect at the time their course of study petition is approved. Bibliographies, for Areas that have standardized bibliographies, are available through the Dean of Students Office. At the examiner's discretion, the student may be asked to develop a bibliography for approval, which must be secured before the student may apply to take exams. Students should also be sure to consult with their examiners about their bibliographies well ahead of time. Minor Petitions are not required to change exam bibliographies, only to change exams and/or examiners. While preparing for exams, students are advised to consult past exams, available through the Dean of Students Office digital files.

#### PEDAGOGICAL TRAINING PLAN

A key feature of the Divinity School's doctoral program is its significant commitment to helping our students become effective and thoughtful educators. The School is committed to this formation as a part of our curriculum for all doctoral students, even those who are not anticipating a career in teaching. The rationales are that the skills of an effective educator are needed for all professions that wish to communicate intelligently in the public sphere about religion and because teaching and research are mutually reinforcing in advanced work in the study of religion.

The Divinity School Pedagogical Training Plan (PTP) transforms the teaching requirement of the doctoral program. It requires a combination of pedagogical training, teaching, and mentoring experiences. The plan is designed to holistically prepare students to teach in the academic study of religion. It replaces the teaching requirement of the Graduate Aid Initiative (GAI) for students that matriculated into the doctoral program in Summer 2016 or later.

All students who matriculated into the doctoral program in Summer 2016 or later are required to complete a PTP. Starting in Spring 2022, student progress toward their individual PTP will be considered in their annual review.

Students who matriculated into the doctoral program before Summer 2016 may choose to complete a PTP to take advantage of the mentoring and training components of the program. Students wishing to be eligible for hire as a Divinity School Teaching Fellow (TF) as of Fall 2022 must complete a Pedagogical Training Plan.

Detailed expectations for students in various cohorts with various numbers of teaching points can be found in the “PTP Transition Plan” section below.

The components of the Divinity School’s PTP are:

Pedagogical Training: To satisfy the pedagogical training component of the plan, all students must complete the Teaching@Chicago workshop offered by the Chicago Center for Teaching and TA Training provided by the Divinity School’s Dean of Students Office. These requirements must be completed before holding a teaching appointment. Students must also complete the Course Design and College Teaching Course (CCTE 50000) offered by the Chicago Center for Teaching before teaching a standalone course at the University of Chicago.

Students who matriculate into the doctoral program in Summer 2021 or later must also complete an Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop. This workshop must be completed before holding any teaching appointment. Though not required for students that matriculated into the doctoral program before Summer 2021, it is highly recommended for all students to participate in this training.

In addition to the formal requirement of the GAI or PTP, students are encouraged to participate in the opportunities offered by the John C. and Jane Colman Craft of Teaching, Leadership, and Service Program at the Divinity School, the Chicago Center for Teaching, and events offered by UChicago GRAD regarding teaching and other forms of professional development.

Teaching: The number of teaching experiences required to complete the teaching component of the PTP is determined by the student’s matriculation date into the program. Teaching experiences are considered minor or major, depending on the scope of work required by the student. Minor appointments are those that support instructors of a course, such as Teaching Assistants (TAs) and/or writing interns. Teaching appointments that require the student to be the instructor of record for a course are considered major experiences. Minor experiences are awarded one (1) teaching point. Major experiences are awarded two (2) teaching points. Students accumulate teaching points to fulfill the teaching requirement of the PTP. Points earned in the GAI system convert to the PTP on a one-to-one basis. Preferably students will earn their points through 2-3 minor experiences and 1 major experience. While this ratio of minor to major experiences is the preferred method, students may satisfy the teaching component of the PTP in other ratios depending on the availability of teaching positions and the student’s pedagogical aims. Students should consult with their teaching mentor as they articulate their pedagogical aims and the relationship of such aims to their teaching points.

Students that matriculated into the doctoral program in Summer 2021 or later must earn five (5) teaching points. Students that matriculated before Summer 2021 that are either required to or choose to complete the PTP must earn a minimum of four (4), and generally no more than five (5) teaching points, as articulated in their individual PTP as approved by the Committee on Doctoral Studies. Note that earning more than five (5) points in a PTP is rare and only for students who have earned 4 or more points as of Winter 2021 and have not yet taught a standalone content course at the University of Chicago and would find it pedagogically useful to do so. As of Summer 2022, students are not allowed

to hold teaching appointments outside of the PTP. Exceptions may only be granted for students that matriculated before Summer 2016 for a teaching assistant (TA) or writing intern appointment.

Students appointed as lecturers of the Divinity School's textual language course sequences (Introductory Biblical Hebrew, Introduction to Koine Greek, and/or Introduction to Qur'anic Arabic) may elect to situate this experience as either a minor or major experience, depending on their pedagogical and professional development goals. Any questions about the point value of a particular teaching assignment should be directed to the Dean of Students office.

Students appointed as RLST BA Preceptors may select to situate this experience as either a minor or major experience, depending on their pedagogical and professional development goals. Any questions about the point value of a particular teaching assignment should be directed to the Dean of Students office.

Mentoring: To satisfy the mentoring component of the plan, students must 1) identify a faculty teaching mentor, 2) develop a professional development and teaching plan, 3) receive feedback on all teaching experiences; and 4) create and receive feedback on a teaching statement.

#### PTP Recommended Framework

A usual plan to integrate teaching experience into students' broader program of professional preparation is as follows. Students should consult with their faculty advisor or teaching mentor to plan for the timing of completion of teaching assignments. Students are not required to follow this framework; their progression will be assessed individually based on the teaching plan that is developed in consultation with the faculty advisor and/or teaching mentor. For a visual representation of this material see PTP Framework Guide.

- Years 1-2: Students ordinarily spend their first two years focused on coursework and language study and do not teach. As a result, there are no teaching requirements in these years. Students must identify a teaching mentor, develop teaching goals, and create a preliminary teaching and professional development plan in the first year and include this information in the Course of Study Petition. During the first two years of the program, students should also complete the first pedagogical requirements of the PTP, listed below. Students are also encouraged to participate in the opportunities offered by the John C. and Jane Colman Craft of Teaching, Leadership, and Service Program at the Divinity School.
  - Teaching@Chicago: This half-day conference is designed to orient new teaching assistants to the culture, structure, elements, and practices of teaching at the University of Chicago. For more details, please visit the CCT's website.
  - Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop: This workshop focuses on developing techniques for the creation of inclusive learning environments, addressing bias in the classroom, and aligning learning objectives, activities, and assessments.
- Years 3-4: Students should hold two to three minor teaching experiences to build teaching skills and develop exposure to different pedagogical practices and content-specific teaching

techniques (earning two to three total teaching points). Faculty mentors should give feedback to students while in teaching appointments to satisfy the mentoring component of the plan in these years. Students should also use this time to complete the one or more of the following pedagogical requirements, depending on their teaching plan.

- CCTE 50000- Course Design and College Teaching  
Course Design and College Teaching prepares graduate students to teach in the College through an intentional reflection on teaching practice, learning styles, inclusive pedagogy, classroom management, and assessment. Students must complete this course before being appointed as a lecturer.
  - 50100- Language Pedagogy for the Contemporary Classroom Language  
Pedagogy for the Contemporary Classroom prepares graduate students to teach language effectively. Students must complete this course before being appointed as a language lecturer.
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- Years 5 and 6: Students should teach one stand-alone course in either of these years (2 teaching points each). Students are expected to have a pre-course meeting with the teaching mentor to receive feedback on the syllabus, course design, and assessments. The teaching mentor is also expected to observe the student lead at least one class discussion or lecture during the stand-alone course and give feedback. Lastly, the teaching mentor is expected to review course evaluations with the student and discuss ways to improve the course.
  - Years 5-7: Students must complete a teaching statement, to be reviewed by the teaching mentor.

PTP Recommended Framework Chart

	Pre-requisite Pedagogical Training	Teaching	Pedagogical Training and Support			
Year	The following courses and workshops are required preparation for teaching, as noted.	Required Teaching Experience <i>These teaching appointments are required for graduation.</i>	Teaching Mentorship <i>Faculty are required to review all student teaching. Students should inform the DOS of their teaching positions.</i>	Craft of Teaching Requirements <i>Students are strongly encouraged but are not required to complete the CoT Certificate.</i>	Other Pedagogical Training	Learning Goals
1	Teaching@Chicago Workshop (CCT)- required for all students before holding a teaching appointment	None	Determine faculty teaching mentor. Student and teaching mentor meet to discuss teaching goals and preliminary teaching plan.	1 Introductory Craft of Teaching Workshop	Pedagogies of Writing (HUMA 50000)- <i>required to serve as writing intern</i>	Develop foundational knowledge of discipline.
2	Inclusive Pedagogy Workshop- required for students that entered program in Summer 2021 or later before holding a teaching appointment	1 Teaching Assistantship, ideally in an undergraduate RLST, CIV, HUM, or SOC Core course, may also include a Divinity School graduate-level content course	Instructor of record observation and/or feedback on at least one TA-led discussion or guest lecture during course assistantship	1-2 Introductory Craft of Teaching Workshops	Or Principles of Teaching Writing (ENGL 50300)- <i>required to serve as writing lector</i>	Develop foundational knowledge of discipline. Learn about undergraduate students and resources for teaching at Chicago and reflect on first experiences in the classroom. Develop skills in writing or language instruction, grading, and providing feedback. Practice and get feedback on classroom instruction.

3	Language Pedagogy for the Contemporary Classroom (CCTE 50100) – <i>required to serve as instructor of record for a language course</i>	1 Teaching Assistantship, ideally in an undergraduate RLST, CIV, HUM, or SOC Core course, may also include a Divinity School graduate-level content course	Instructor of record observation and/or feedback on at least one discussion or lecture during course assistantship	1-2 Introductory Craft of Teaching Workshops		Develop foundational knowledge of methods for leading effective discussions, assessing student learning, grading practices, and norms
4				1 Advanced Craft of Teaching Workshop		Practice and get feedback on classroom instruction Reflect on and develop disciplinary teaching practices. Reflect on and develop inclusive teaching practices Develop draft course syllabus Begin to develop a teaching philosophy
5	Course Design and College Teaching Course (CCTE 50000) – <i>required before teaching a stand-alone course</i>	1 Stand-alone content course <i>(Note: if a student is unable to secure an opportunity to teach a stand-alone course, the student should work with the faculty mentor to determine an alternative way to satisfy the PTP requirement and file a minor petition with the Committee on Doctoral Studies)</i>	When teaching stand-alone content course: (1) Pre-course meeting with faculty (advisor, DUS, etc.) to review syllabus and receive feedback on assignment design. (2) Faculty mentor observation and feedback on at least one discussion or lecture during the stand-alone course. (3) Post-course feedback on comments on student work.	1-2 Advanced Craft of Teaching Workshops	<u>Optional pedagogy training opportunities:</u> ICT course consultation during stand-alone course (CCT)	Teach an inclusive and well-conceived course in the discipline. Practice and get feedback on classroom instruction.
6+			Faculty mentor feedback on the teaching statement.	1-2 Advanced Craft of Teaching Workshops  Complete the Craft of Teaching certificate	during stand-alone course (CCT) Critical Pedagogy in the University Classroom (CCTE 50200), College Teaching Certificate (CCT)	Design an inclusive and well-conceived course, based on meaningful learning objectives, informed by active learning methods, and assessment practices appropriate to the discipline. Develop a statement of teaching philosophy and begin to synthesize evidence and reflection on teaching. Reflect on inclusive teaching practices.

		<i>outlining this alternative.)</i>				
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## PTP Transition Plan

The PTP transition plan organizes current doctoral students into 7 groups:

- **Group 1:** Students who matriculated into the doctoral program in Summer 2021 or later. These students must complete teaching assignments equivalent to a total of five (5) teaching points. They will articulate how they intend to fulfil the requirements of the PTP in their course of study petition as described above.
- **Group 2:** Students with fewer than 4 points as of the end of Winter 2021 who matriculated in Summer 2016 or later. These students should complete a teaching plan that culminates in either four (4) or five (5) points. Students in this group should situate the teaching of a stand-alone content course in their PTP in the articulated four (4) or five (5) point plan. In other words, they may not accumulate more than 4 or 5 points as specified in the PTP. GAI points transfer to the PTP in a one-to-one ratio.
  - Students in years 2 and beyond are required to have a minor petition outlining progress toward the components of the pedagogical training plan approved by the Committee on Doctoral Studies no later than Spring 2021.
  - Students in year 1 of the program will include the requirements of the PTP in their Course of Study Petition, which must be approved by the Committee on Doctoral Studies no later than Spring 2021.
  - Students who have completed their PTP point or GAI point requirement may hold additional teaching appointments for remuneration during the 2021-2022 school year. As of Summer 2022, no teaching beyond the PTP or GAI at the University of Chicago is allowed.
- **Group 3:** Students with 4 points as of the end of Winter 2021 who matriculated in Summer 2016 or later. These students may elect to complete a teaching plan that culminates in either four (4), five (5), or six (6) points. GAI points transfer to the PTP in a one-to-one ratio. Students are required to have a minor petition outlining progress toward the components of the pedagogical training plan approved by the Committee on Doctoral Studies no later than Spring 2021.
  - Students that elect the four (4) point plan will have fulfilled the teaching component of the PTP.
  - Students who wish to have one more minor teaching experience should elect a five (5) point plan.
  - Students who have not yet taught a standalone content course at the University of Chicago and wish to do so should elect to have a six (6) point plan.
  - Students who have completed their PTP point requirement may hold additional teaching appointments for remuneration during the 2021-2022 school year. As of Summer 2022, no teaching beyond the PTP or GAI at the University of Chicago is allowed.

- **Group 4:** Students with 5 or more points as of the end of Winter 2021 who matriculated in Summer 2016 or later.
  - These students have fulfilled the teaching component of the PTP unless they have not yet (as of the end of Winter 2021) taught a standalone content course at the University of Chicago and would find it pedagogically beneficial to do so. If students in this group wish to teach a standalone course they may write their PTP to include two (2) more points than they have already earned. GAI points transfer to the PTP in a one-to-one ratio.
  - Students who have completed their PTP point or GAI point requirement may hold additional teaching appointments for remuneration during the 2021-2022 school year. As of Summer 2022, no teaching beyond the PTP or GAI at the University of Chicago is allowed.
  - Students are required to have a minor petition outlining progress toward the pedagogical training and mentoring components of the PTP approved by the Committee on Doctoral Studies no later than Spring 2021.
  
- **Group 5:** Students with fewer than 4 points as of the end of Winter 2021 who matriculated *before* Summer 2016. Students in this group may elect to complete a PTP instead of the GAI teaching requirement. GAI points transfer to the PTP in a one-to-one ratio.
  - Electing to complete a PTP gives additional opportunities for pedagogical training and mentoring and enables a student to be eligible for hire in the Teaching Fellows Program as of Fall 2022.
  - If a student in Group 5 decides to transition to the PTP they may elect to complete a teaching plan that culminates in either four (4) or five (5) points. These students are required to have a minor petition outlining progress toward the components of the pedagogical training plan approved by the Committee on Doctoral Studies no later than Spring 2021.
  - Students in Group 5 who do not transition to the PTP must complete the five (5) point GAI requirement and will not be eligible for hire as a Teaching Fellow starting in Fall 2022.
  - Students who have completed their PTP point or GAI point requirement may hold additional teaching appointments for remuneration during the 2021-2022 school year. As of Summer 2022, no teaching beyond the PTP or GAI at the University of Chicago is allowed. Exceptions may only be granted for students that matriculated before Summer 2016 for a teaching assistant (TA) or writing intern appointment.
  - Students that matriculated before Summer 2016 will not be allowed to hold lectureship appointments as of Summer 2022.

- **Group 6:** Students with 4 points as of the end of Winter 2021 who matriculated *before* Summer 2016. Students in this group may elect to complete a PTP instead of the GAI teaching requirement. GAI points transfer to the PTP in a one-to-one ratio.
  - Electing to complete a PTP gives additional pedagogical training and mentoring and enables a student to be eligible for hire in the Teaching Fellows Program as of Fall 2022.
  - If a student in Group 6 decides to transition to the PTP they may elect to complete a teaching plan that culminates in either four (4), five (5), or six (6) points.
    - Students that elect the four (4) point plan will have fulfilled the teaching component of the PTP.
    - Students who wish to have one more minor teaching experience may elect a five (5) point plan.
    - Students who have not yet taught a standalone content course at the University of Chicago and wish to do so may elect a six (6) point plan.
  - Students that elect to complete a PTP are required to have a minor petition outlining progress toward the components of the pedagogical training plan approved by the Committee on Doctoral Studies no later than Spring 2021.
  - Students in Group 6 who do not transition to the PTP must earn five (5) teaching points as required under the GAI. Such students will not be eligible for hire as a Teaching Fellow starting in Fall 2022.
  - Students who have completed their PTP point or GAI point requirement may hold additional teaching appointments for remuneration during the 2021-2022 school year. As of Summer 2022, no teaching beyond the PTP or GAI at the University of Chicago is allowed. Exceptions may only be granted for students that matriculated before Summer 2016 for a teaching assistant (TA) or writing intern appointment.
  - Students that matriculated before Summer 2016 will not be allowed to hold lectureship appointments as of Summer 2022.
  
- **Group 7:** Students with 5 or more GAI points as of the end of Winter 2021 who matriculated *before* Summer 2016. Students in this group may elect to complete a PTP instead of completing the GAI teaching requirement. GAI points transfer to the PTP in a one-to-one ratio.
  - Electing to complete a PTP gives additional pedagogical training and mentoring and enables a student to be eligible for hire in the Teaching Fellows Program as of Fall 2022.
    - These students have fulfilled the teaching component of the PTP unless they have not yet (as of the end of Winter 2021) taught a standalone content course at the University of Chicago and would find it pedagogically beneficial to do so. If students in this group wish to teach a standalone course they may write their PTP to include two (2) more points than they have already

earned. These students are required to have a minor petition outlining progress toward the components of the pedagogical training plan approved by the Committee on Doctoral Studies no later than Spring 2021.

- Students in Group 7 who do not transition to the PTP must complete the five (5) point GAI requirement and will not be eligible for hire as a Teaching Fellow starting in Fall 2022.
- Students who have completed their PTP point or GAI point requirement may hold additional teaching appointments for remuneration during the 2021-2022 school year. As of Summer 2022, no teaching beyond the PTP or GAI at the University of Chicago is allowed. Exceptions may only be granted for students that matriculated before Summer 2016 for a teaching assistant (TA) or writing intern appointment.
- Students that matriculated before Summer 2016 will not be allowed to hold lectureship appointments as of Summer 2022.

## PTP Transition Plan FAQs

Since the Pedagogical Training Plan is a new feature of our doctoral program and many current students are considering or are required to transition to it from the GAI system, we have developed a set of answers to frequently asked questions.

### 1. What is the Divinity School Pedagogical Training Plan?

The Divinity School Pedagogical Training Plan ("PTP") is the revised teaching requirement of the doctoral program. For students that matriculated in the doctoral program in Summer 2016 or later, it replaces the teaching requirements of the Graduate Aid Initiative (GAI). The PTP is a graduation requirement for all students that matriculated into the doctoral program in Summer 2016 or later.

The PTP is designed to train doctoral students to be teachers in two ways: (1) students advance through a series of mentored teaching experiences toward the goal of teaching a stand-alone course; (2) students participate in training programming and mentoring activities to gain the skills and tools they need to be effective in the classroom. For a detailed look at the plan please consult the Pedagogical Training Plan Outline.

### 2. Is the PTP required of all doctoral students?

The PTP is required of all students who matriculated Summer 2016 or later.

Students who matriculated before Summer 2016 will be able to remain on the old teaching plan (GAI points) if they are not interested in being a Divinity Teaching Fellow in Fall 2022 or after and/or interested in benefitting from the additional training and mentoring of the PTP. Students who matriculated before Summer 2016 must transition to the PTP in order to be eligible for a Divinity School Teaching Fellowship in Fall 2022 and after.

### 3. When does the Divinity School PTP go into effect?

The transition from the GAI points system to the PTP will begin in Fall 2020. The transition period will last up to two academic years. During the transition time, we encourage students to determine how to transition to the new program in consultation with faculty advisors, the Dean of Students Office, and Director of Doctoral Studies and work to do so.

Students who matriculated in Summer 2016 or later will be transitioned from the GAI system to the PTP as of Autumn 2020. These students must have a pedagogical training plan approved by the Committee on Doctoral Studies no later than Spring 2021. Going forward, pedagogical training plans will be considered in the annual review process.

Students who matriculated before Summer 2016 have until Spring 2021 to decide if they want to complete a PTP. Those who elect to complete a PTP must a pedagogical training plan approved by

the Committee on Doctoral Studies no later than Spring 2021. Going forward, pedagogical training plans will be considered in the annual review process.

Those students who matriculated before Summer 2016 who elect not to complete a PTP will be held to the 5 GAI point requirement.

4. How does this plan compare to the former model, i.e. the GAI points system?

There are a few key differences between the GAI points system and the PTP: Unlike the GAI which was focused solely on teaching, the PTP involves a combination of pedagogical training, mentoring, and teaching experiences. The PTP is part of a new funding model that is meant to allow students to focus on dissertation research and writing in the latter portion of their doctoral program. The PTP is a degree requirement, similar to other ancillary non-course degree requirements such as language requirements and qualifying examinations

5. Will paid teaching opportunities be available going forward?

Per the Provost's [policy](#), students who have completed the teaching component of the GAI or PTP may apply for remunerated teaching experiences at the Divinity School or across the University now through the end of spring 2022. Beginning in Summer 2022, students will not be able to hold any teaching appointments outside of the approved PTP, including prize lectureships. Exceptions may only be granted for students that matriculated before Summer 2016 for a teaching assistant (TA) or writing intern appointment.

6. I am planning to count non-UChicago teaching toward my teaching points. How does the PTP transition impact my plans?

Doctoral students are expected to fulfill PTP requirements at The University of Chicago. In some circumstances, it may be appropriate for students to pursue teaching off-campus. Students who wish to do so should work with the faculty advisor and/or teaching mentor to develop an appropriate and comparable pedagogical training plan which would include the off-campus experience. This plan must be then submitted as Minor Petition for approval by the Committee on Doctoral Studies. Any plan that includes teaching off-campus must include methods of evaluation and feedback.

7. How do I identify a teaching mentor?

In most instances a student's teaching mentor will be the faculty advisor. Students should feel free to reach out to the Director of Doctoral Studies and the Director of Undergraduate Studies to discuss options for establishing these mentor-mentee relationships.

Your faculty advisor or another faculty member may be your teaching mentor. As you consider who you may like to have as a teaching mentor you may consider a variety of factors such as subject of study, pedagogical style, pedagogical experience (have they taught at a particular type of institution that interests you), etc. It is generally recommended that you have a teaching mentor from within the University, and particularly within the Divinity School since such faculty will have more knowledge

of the PTP process and have particular responsibilities regarding it. Additionally, when you are teaching on campus, it will likely be easier for such faculty to observe your teaching. However, it is possible to have other faculty serve as a PTP mentor, provided that they understand and agree to the process and the Committee on Doctoral Studies approves.

8. Is there any relationship between the PTP and the Divinity Teaching Fellows Program?

Yes. All students must complete a PTP by Spring 2022 in order to be eligible for hire in the Divinity Teaching Fellows Program. Meaning, students who are applying for the 2022-2023 Teaching Fellowship should complete the requirements of a PTP by Spring 2022.

9. I'm interested in teaching (or have taught) a first-year language course in the Divinity School (Greek, Hebrew, Arabic). How does this relate to the PTP?

Starting in Autumn 2020, students will only be allowed to hold the language lectureship once, meaning they will be allowed to teach the full sequence (two or three quarters, depending on the language) but cannot be appointed to teach it again in future years. Additionally, students may decide how to situate the experience, as either a minor experience (1 point) or a major experience (2 points). Students should consult with their teaching mentor in order to determine how this experience best aligns with the student's pedagogical and professional development goals.

10. I'm interested in becoming the BA Preceptor. How does this relate to the PTP?

Starting in Autumn 2020, students will only be allowed to BA Preceptorship once, meaning they will be allowed to hold the appointment for the full year, but cannot be appointed to teach it again in future years. Additionally, students may decide how to situate the experience, as either a minor experience (1 point) or a major experience (2 points). Students should consult with their teaching mentor in order to determine how this experience best aligns with the student's pedagogical and professional development goals.

11. I have earned 3 teaching points. Am I eligible to apply for the Alma Wilson Fellowship?

All Divinity School students transitioning to the PTP who have not taught a stand-alone content course, regardless of points earned, can apply for the Alma Wilson Fellowship. Students wishing to teach a stand-alone content course should include this in their PTP or minor petition describing the teaching experiences you plan to do including the timeframe for completion. Indicate why these experiences will be a valuable contribution to your pedagogical development. Students that matriculated before Summer 2016 will not be allowed to hold lectureship appointments as of Summer 2022.

12. I have earned 4 teaching points, but I have not yet taught a stand-alone content course. Am I eligible to apply for the Alma Wilson Fellowship?

All Divinity School students transitioning to the PTP who have not taught a stand-alone content course, regardless of points earned, can apply for the Alma Wilson Fellowship. Students wishing to teach a stand-alone content course who have not yet done so and who have earned four or more

points should include this in their PTP minor petition. In the petition, they should describe the teaching experiences completed and that they plan to do including the timeframe for completion. They should also indicate why these experiences will be a valuable contribution to their pedagogical development. Students that matriculated before Summer 2016 will not be allowed to hold lectureship appointments as of Summer 2022.

13. Do Course Assistant (CA) positions count toward the teaching requirement in the PTP?

No, CA positions do not count toward the teaching requirement of the PTP. Course assistants do not provide the same pedagogical experiences as teaching assistants (TA). For example, course assistants are not assigned teaching and/or grading responsibilities.

14. Is there guidance for how students should pursue teaching opportunities in developing the PTP?

Students should only pursue teaching opportunities that directly align with their professional goals, instead of working to amass general teaching experiences that are available. For example, a student should only apply to teach writing if teaching writing is pertinent to your career plans. The points earned for teaching writing, for example, will limit your ability to teach in your area or field later in the program.

15. Do I have to complete the requirements of the PTP in the year listed on the spreadsheet?

The spreadsheet indicates a pedagogical plan in which elements build on each other to move you to and through the goal of teaching your own class. Completing the steps in a different order may not be as beneficial. The Divinity School recommends that students do not serve as a teaching assistant in their first two years. Beyond that, we recommend that you develop a teaching plan in consultation with your teaching mentor, and then once chosen, your mentor, in general alignment with the yearly plan outlined here.

16. How do I submit a Minor Petition about the PTP?

This Minor Petition should be submitted like the others, through a form available on the Forms for Current Students [website](#).

17. Who do I contact if I have questions about the PTP?

Both Dean Maduff ([mhalpern@uchicago.edu](mailto:mhalpern@uchicago.edu)) and Director of Doctoral Studies Richard Rosengarten ([raroseng@uchicago.edu](mailto:raroseng@uchicago.edu)) can answer questions about the program. Administrative and financial questions should be directed to Dean Maduff, and questions about strategic academic and pedagogical planning should be directed to Professor Rosengarten (as well as to your advisor, and once selected, your PTP mentor).

## THE DISSERTATION

Upon completion of the qualifying examinations, the student proceeds to the dissertation, an original contribution to scholarship about religion. Divinity School dissertations are known for their methodological sophistication, depth of learning, and originality of thought. Many of these dissertations are published in leading university presses around the world. A list of past dissertations can be found on the Regenstein Library's website.

Four formal steps constitute the dissertation process:

- A. The dissertation proposal colloquium, approval of the dissertation proposal by the dissertation committee, approval of the dissertation proposal by the Committee on Doctoral Studies.
- B. The midpoint review of the dissertation research.
- C. The oral defense of the completed dissertation.
- D. Filing the completed dissertation.

Throughout the process, the student is responsible for maintaining good contact with the dissertation committee and providing regular updates on progress.

### The Dissertation Advisor and Reading Committee

The dissertation proposal should develop out of the interests and competencies the student establishes through coursework and qualifying exams. In preparing the proposal, the student should work closely with the faculty Advisor for the project. It should be noted that the dissertation Advisor (Chair) may be someone other than the student's faculty Advisor until this point. The Divinity School faculty considers an optimum dissertation to be approximately 200-250 pages.

The student will propose their dissertation project to their reading committee, which usually consists of their Advisor (who chairs the committee) and two readers. When appropriate, a student may petition for co-Advisors and one reader. Only in rare instances will a proposal of a committee of four members receive approval. The Dissertation Chair should be an active member of the Divinity School's full faculty. Associated faculty members, faculty members in other departments at the University of Chicago, and/or faculty members external to the University of Chicago may serve as faculty co-chairs to dissertation committees, if they co-chair with a full faculty member of the Divinity School. Divinity School faculty who become emeritus may continue to their previously approved role as dissertation chairs to students for up to one following their retirement. Prior to the conclusion of that year, a student with an emeritus advisor must have secured approval via Minor Petition to the Committee on Doctoral Studies of an alternative advising arrangement. An emeritus faculty member who is advising a dissertation may remain on the dissertation committee, either as co-chair or as a reader. In rare cases, a student may petition the Committee on Doctoral Studies to have the emeritus faculty member stay as dissertation chair. In order for such a petition to be

considered, the emeritus faculty member must be willing to stay abreast of policy changes and has a demonstrated track record of doing so.

#### External Faculty as Members of the Dissertation Committee

While the Advisor of a dissertation must be a Divinity School faculty member (including associated faculty), in some instances a student may, in consultation with the Advisor, elect to include a faculty member external to the Divinity School as a member of the reading committee. When this individual is a member of University of Chicago faculty, no special arrangements are necessary. When the individual is a member of the faculty of another institution, the student should indicate briefly at the conclusion of the proposal why their participation as a member of the reading committee is essential. This is usually an argument that the individual's expertise cannot be found on the faculty of the University.

The dissertation proposal colloquium is a meeting of the student and the dissertation reading committee to review the dissertation proposal. The student and the Advisor schedule this colloquium, which usually occurs after the student has revised at least one draft of the proposal with the Advisor. Its scheduling should ensure that faculty attending have sufficient time to review the document and to make substantive suggestions. During the colloquium the student and the committee should discuss their expectations for their work together, including the timing of reading chapters and the format in which work should be submitted (by email or in hard copy). The proposal colloquium usually lasts about 2 hours. Upon completion of the dissertation proposal colloquium, the dissertation committee chair will submit the Dissertation Proposal Evaluation Form to Dean of Students Office for review by the Committee on Doctoral Studies. This evaluation form can be found on the Information for Faculty [website](#).

#### Advancing to Candidacy

When the members of the dissertation reading committee approve the proposal, the student submits the proposal to the Dean of Students Office in the form of a formal petition to the Committee on Doctoral Studies using the appropriate form on the Forms for Current Students [website](#). Approval of this proposal by the Committee on Doctoral Studies establishes the student as a Ph.D. candidate.

Students in the ASR and Bible Areas must advance to candidacy by the end of their 13<sup>th</sup> quarter in the program (normally Autumn quarter of their fifth year). All other students must advance to candidacy by the end of their 12<sup>th</sup> quarter (normally Spring quarter of the fourth year). Students that fail to advance to candidacy in the appropriate time will be considered to no longer be making satisfactory academic process and may be placed on academic probation or withdrawn from the program by the Committee on Doctoral Studies.

## The Dissertation Proposal

Dissertation Proposals are submitted electronically to the Dean of Students Office on the Forms for Current Students [website](#). After submission the Dean of Students Office will contact the faculty committee members for approval. Approval of the faculty committee members indicates that they have participated in the colloquium, that they judge the proposed dissertation to constitute a worthy and feasible project, and that they are willing to serve on the reading committee for the dissertation. Deadlines for submission are available in the calendar section of this handbook.

The proposal includes a 15-25 page statement inclusive of

- A. A proposed title;
- B. Concise formulation of the problem to be researched;
- C. An indication of the methods to be employed;
- D. A discussion of the resources to be employed in the dissertation;
- E. A tentative statement of the hypothesis and argument of the dissertation; A statement of a thesis is not a mere exploration of a theme or idea, but a statement that stakes out an argument that the dissertation aims to develop and defend. It is something that a reasonable person could contest in light of the evidence. Certainly, a thesis may change with additional research, but having a provisional thesis in the proposal is critical to articulating what a student aims to contribute to the literature. In instances when the statement of a provisional thesis appears premature, the proposal should lay out the questions the dissertation will seek to answer and their significance, a reflection on the kinds of evidence required to answer the questions, the manner in which this evidence will be gathered, some provisional hypotheses, and the contributions the student expects to make to specific areas of scholarship by pursuing this inquiry.
- F. A brief discussion of the importance of the dissertation as an original contribution to knowledge, whether theoretical or practical (in submitting the proposal, a student attests that it is based upon a thorough investigation that has convinced the student that the thesis has not been previously argued in the manner proposed);
- G. A brief discussion of the expertise of the dissertation committee members. If the student is petitioning for four members of the committee, or members external to the Divinity School, this statement should include why their participation as a member of the reading committee is essential. This is usually an argument that the individual's expertise cannot be found on the faculty of the University.
- H. A tentative outline by chapter of the dissertation
- I. A timeline and bibliography as described below are required elements of the proposal but are not to be included in the page limit described above.
  - A. Timeline
    1. Anticipated timeline for the research and writing, Midpoint Review, defense, and graduation; Articulating a timeline for completing the dissertation should be a

dialogical process between student, advisor, committee members, and the Committee on Doctoral Studies.

2. Timelines should presume no more than three academic years for the dissertation. Generally, the first year will include research (fieldwork, archival work, translations, library research, etc.) and initial outlining and drafting. Writing a chapter in the first year is often reasonable, depending on the type of research necessary. In the second year, two to three chapters should be written, and the Midpoint Review completed. In the third year, the candidate should finish writing chapters, polish and integrate them, receive feedback from the committee, revise, defend, revise again as necessary, and file the dissertation. Students should consult with their advisors and committee, the Ph.D. Student Handbook and Dissertation Office's rules for filing as they put together their timelines. If a student believes that the project will take longer than three academic years to complete, a detailed rationale for the extended length must be included.
  3. Timelines should include a detailed rationale of what is to be done and why it is necessary for the dissertation. For instance, if one is conducting fieldwork, one should note how long one anticipates spending at different sites and what one will do there. If one is conducting library research, one should indicate the kinds of materials sought and the timeframe for such investigations.
  4. Students should articulate how they will demonstrate their progress each year. This will be particularly important in cases where a significant period of time is going to be devoted to initial research before drafting. For instance, will they have translations, outlines, ethnographic reflections complete at the end of year one?
  5. Timelines should also indicate significant professional development activities such as preparing job market materials, presenting at a conference, transforming a chapter into a journal article, or teaching.
- B. A brief formal bibliography should present the editions of primary texts to be consulted in the dissertation and a representative sample of the relevant secondary literature.

The Committee on Doctoral Studies serves three purposes regarding the evaluation of the dissertation proposal:

- A. To approve the reading committee for the proposed dissertation, thus admitting the student to Ph.D. candidacy.
- B. To assure that the dissertation proposal is (1) clearly conceived and formulated as evidenced by a proposal that can communicate the student's project to other scholars engaged in the academic study of religion, regardless of discipline; (2) includes a detailed timeline to aid the student's writing process and facilitate review of their progress by their advisor, committee, and Committee on Doctoral Studies during annual reviews and at the Midpoint Review; (3) meets basic standards of academic rigor; (4) is accountable regarding its explicit relations, if any, to other areas of scholarly specialization.

- C. To enable that students receive relevant pedagogical advice (e.g. about sources and methods) that can strengthen the research project. Namely, we recognize that it may be intellectually beneficial for students to hear suggestions and questions from the faculty members on the Committee on Doctoral Studies.

To achieve these ends, the Committee on Doctoral Studies will write a letter to each student applying for Candidacy, indicating whether their committee, proposal, and dissertation completion timeline are approved, and they have been advanced to candidacy. The letter may indicate a clear approval; a provisional approval if clarification on a minor point is required; or a rejection, if an element of the proposal is missing or is insufficiently explained. This letter, regardless of outcome, will also include any suggestions the Committee on Doctoral Studies may have to improve the project. Students are expected to respond to a provisional approval or a rejection within two weeks of receiving their letter from the Committee on Doctoral Studies.

Doctoral candidates must submit a Minor Petition to the Committee on Doctoral Studies to request a change to the composition of the dissertation committee and/or the dissertation completion timeline milestones—Midpoint Review, Defense, and/or Graduation.

#### Presenting work

The faculty recommends that students present the first or second chapter of their dissertation in a workshop, dissertation reading group, or conference for purposes of gaining feedback, developing professional skills of presenting and responding, and accountability. Students may also wish to develop writing groups with peers and/or participate in one of the writing workshops sponsored by UChicago Grad.

#### Midpoint Review

The midpoint oral review of dissertation research occurs at a time determined by the student in consultation with the advisor, usually after the student has written at least two chapters. It provides an opportunity for the student and the reading committee to discuss the work in progress, both to review what has been written and to discuss what needs to be done to complete the dissertation. The advisor provides written notification of the completion of the oral review to the Dean of Students via the Midpoint Review Form on the Information for Faculty [website](#). If after the oral review, the dissertation committee believes that a student is not making sufficient progress on the dissertation, they may forward their finding for further review by the Committee on Doctoral Studies.

#### Public Oral Defense of the Dissertation

The completion of a student's dissertation is a momentous occasion for the student, the committee, and the Divinity School as a whole. A public oral defense provides the student with a capstone experience by having the student articulate and defend the dissertation's contribution to knowledge

in their area of specialization. The defense enables the student to engage their dissertation committee as colleagues and serves to demonstrate to other students in the Area and in the Divinity School a model of achievement and recognition. For these reasons, the Divinity School requires all doctoral students who matriculated in Summer 2016 and after to complete a public oral defense of the dissertation. Those Ph.D. students who entered the program before Summer 2016 may choose whether or not they have a dissertation defense, unless it was required by the Area prior to the new doctoral student handbook of Autumn 2019.

The Dissertation Reading Committee chair, in consultation with the student and the other committee members, is responsible for approving the scheduling of the defense. The date, time, and location of the defense should be shared with the Dean of Students Office to be announced to the Divinity School's community. The student, advisors, and committee members may participate in defenses via Skype, Zoom, or other virtual means if they are unable to do so physically.

At the beginning of the defense, the committee confers privately to develop questions of the candidate. The chair then introduces the candidate, who offers a 10-15-minute summary of their dissertation. The committee asks questions and offers comments, and the chair may invite questions or comments from the audience if time allows. The total time of the presentation and question and answer period should not exceed two hours. The committee then deliberates privately and informs the candidate of the result: Pass, Pass with Revisions, or Fail. The judgment of the committee is final, and the grade is not subject to review. A student who fails the dissertation defense is withdrawn from the program.

Before the defense, the Dean of Students sends to each committee member a dissertation evaluation form. Committee members use the form to offer their assessment of the dissertation and rank the student's work. If the committee unanimously ranks the dissertation as Superior, the student is awarded graduation with distinction, which is notated on the student's transcript. Dissertation evaluation forms are kept in the student's file in the Dean of Students office and are not shared with the student, though committee members are encouraged to send the student written feedback as well.

#### Final Dissertation Submission

Students must submit a final version of their approved dissertation to the University's Dissertation Office. Guidelines for formatting, and deadlines for submission of the final dissertation to the Dissertation Office, can be found at <https://www.lib.uchicago.edu/research/scholar/Ph.D./>. Before submitting the final dissertation, the Dean of Students Office will confirm with the dissertation chair that the final dissertation has been approved by the dissertation committee. Once the Dean of Students Office confirms this, the Dissertation Approval Form will be given to the student to submit with their dissertation. The Dissertation Office will then review the dissertation to ensure that it meets all publication guidelines. The Dissertation Office will request any changes to

dissertation's format as needed. Students must adhere to these requests before the dissertation is approved. The Dissertation Office will confirm once the dissertation has been approved. The Dean of Students Office will not approve a student's application to graduate until the Dissertation Office has confirmed that the dissertation has met all required publication checks.

Ph.D. candidates who deposit the final version of their dissertation with the University Dissertation Office by the end of the first week of the quarter in which they intend to graduate may choose not to be registered as students for that quarter.

## ANNUAL REVIEW

To ensure that students receive overall guidance about their academic progress, the Divinity School conducts annual reviews of all its Ph.D. students, generally in the spring term. If students are on leave in the spring term, they should be reviewed in the next term in which they are enrolled. The annual review should only consider the progress toward milestone completion during their time of enrollment. Students are not expected to make progress toward program milestones while on leave.

Annual reviews are generally conducted by faculty of the student's Area of study. Students that not affiliated with an Area will have an annual review with their examining committee. Doctoral candidates conduct annual reviews with their dissertation committees.

Annual reviews should be guided by the "key competencies" outlined at the beginning of this handbook as pertinent for the student's particular stage in the program and result in written feedback for the student. The Divinity School Committee on Doctoral Studies then reviews the student's academic progress.

Any student who fails to make satisfactory academic progress as evidenced by timely completion of the program milestones outlined above, or through assessment via annual student progress reviews, may be subject to academic probation or withdrawal from the program by the Committee on Doctoral Studies. Milestone deadlines may be extended when a student takes a Leave of Absence or for other reasons as specified in the University Student Manual (please consult the Dean of Students with questions). Failure to meet the terms of probation will result in the student's withdrawal from the program. A student who anticipates difficulty in completing any of these requirements in a timely fashion should discuss this with their Advisor, the Dean of Students and/or the Director of Doctoral Studies.

### Year 1:

Review in year one occurs as the student's Course of Study Petition is approved. During this time the Area (or examiners if the student chooses not to affiliate with an Area) should also review the student's transcript and academic progress.

### Year 2:

The Second-Year Progress Conference as described in detail above comprises the review in year two.

#### Year 3:

- For all Areas, except Bible and ASR, the third yearly review should occur after the student's oral examination. Since the oral examination includes an assessment of the student's academic progress and look toward the dissertation, the year 3 annual review will focus on professional development and the PTP.
  - If a student who is expected to take qualifying examinations in the third year does not complete them by that time, they may be placed on academic probation by the Committee on Doctoral Studies. To facilitate the Committee's deliberation, the Area along with any external examiners who will examine the student (or examiners if the student does not affiliate with an Area) will review the student's progress. The Area Chair will report on the results of the review to the Committee on Doctoral Studies.
- If a student is in Bible or ASR and thus is expected to take exams in the fourth year as indicated in the timetable outlined in the Second-Year Progress Conference, at the end of the third year they will undergo a review by their Area faculty with input from external examiners to ensure they are on track for timely completion of their exams and then degree. The Area chair will report on the results of the review to the Committee on Doctoral Studies. If the student is not making satisfactory progress, the Committee on Doctoral Studies may place them on academic probation or withdraw them from the program.

#### Year 4:

Reaching Candidacy by the end of year 4 is expected for students in all Areas except ASR and Bible. If students reach candidacy in Autumn or Winter of year 4, they should write a status update as described in the section for "years 5 and following" to describe their progress during the months since achieving candidacy. Students who achieve candidacy in the spring of year 4 should still write a status update as described below so they can discuss their professional development including but not limited to their progress regarding their Pedagogical Training Plan in addition to their dissertation proposal work, though we recognize that their proposal will suffice as an up-to-date statement of their dissertation goals.

#### Year 5 and following:

Each spring after achieving Candidacy, the Candidate will be required to write 1-2 pages describing what they have achieved in the previous year and a timeline of specific writing goals to achieve in the next year. This document is submitted to the Dissertation Committee with a copy sent to both the Director of Doctoral Studies and the Dean of Students. If any revisions to the student's timeline need to be made, they should be articulated through a Minor Petition to the Committee on Doctoral Studies. While the major focus of this document should be progress toward the dissertation,

Candidates should also reflect upon their pedagogical training, teaching and other professional development plans.

In subsequent years of Candidacy, the review document should also reflect back on the student's previous plan of research and, if and when the Candidate did not meet the stated goals, reflect upon why. This statement will be reviewed by the Dissertation Committee at the Candidate's annual review. Their assessment of the candidate as well as the Candidate's academic record and statement will be reviewed by the Committee on Doctoral Studies. If warranted, the Candidate will be placed on academic probation or withdrawn from the program as described below.

During these annual reviews, attention should be paid to the Candidate's professional development as well as the progress toward the dissertation. See the list of key competencies above.

## **FUNDING**

Doctoral students who matriculated in the doctoral program in Summer 2016 or later are funded through the New Model. The doctoral student fellowship package under The New Model includes a full tuition scholarship, annual living stipend, set for \$37,000 in the 2023-2024 academic year, and coverage for the student USHIP premium coverage, Graduate Student Services (GSS) Fee, and the Lifetime Transcript Fee. This fellowship package extends for the duration of the program, with a maximum registration of nine (9) years for students who matriculated during or after summer 2016 and before summer 2021, or seven (7) years for students who matriculated in Summer 2021 or later.

## **DIVINITY SCHOOL FELLOWSHIPS**

### **Alma Wilson Teaching Prize**

The Alma Wilson Teaching Prize acknowledges doctoral students and candidates in the Divinity School with outstanding records of teaching and pedagogical development. Fellows are given the opportunity to design and deliver their own undergraduate course. Alma Wilson Fellows must complete the CCTE 50000- Course Design and College Teaching course before the teaching the approved course. Applications are reviewed by the Teaching Committee. For further information, please contact Professor Erin Galgay Walsh, Director of Undergraduate Studies.

### **Excellence in Textual Language Teaching Prize**

The Textual Language Teaching Prize offers doctoral students and candidates in the Divinity School the opportunity to design and deliver the textual language sequences in Biblical Hebrew, Koine Greek, and Qur'anic Arabic. Students receiving the language lectureship prize must complete the 50100- Language Pedagogy for the Contemporary Classroom course before beginning to teach the sequence. Applications are reviewed by the Area Faculty in Bible and Islamic Studies.

### Inclusive Pedagogy Fellowships

Inclusive Pedagogy Fellows are appointed for a full academic year and participate in year-long seminars in principles of inclusive pedagogy and inclusive teaching techniques. Fellows are Divinity School Ph.D students and candidates who have completed portions of the Craft of Teaching certificate. Applications are reviewed by the Dean of Students and the Director of the Colman Program.

### Marty Center Junior Fellowships

Marty Center Junior Fellows are Ph.D. candidates who have completed at least one chapter of their dissertation, selected by application from the various Areas of study within the Divinity School. Junior fellows are appointed for a full academic year and participate in a biweekly interdisciplinary seminar in the Winter and Spring quarters, as well as a daylong session with public interlocutors at the end of the academic year. Applications are reviewed by the Committee on Doctoral Studies. For more information, please contact Professors Alireza Doostdar and/or Curtis J. Evans, Co-Directors of the Martin Marty Center.

### Dissertation Completion Fellowships

For students who matriculated into the doctoral program before Summer 2016 or earlier: a number of one-year final year dissertation completion fellowships may be made available annually. These include the Harper, Mellon, and Provost Dissertation Completion Fellowships, as well as Divinity School Dissertation Completion Fellowships. Availability for Dissertation Completion Fellowships are announced by the Dean of Students office. Applications are reviewed by the Committee on Doctoral Studies. For more information, please contact Dean Maduff or Professor Rosengarten, Director of Doctoral Studies.

## **ADDITIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

### THE COMMITTEE ON DOCTORAL STUDIES

The faculty established the Committee on Doctoral Studies to oversee the degree programs of the Divinity School. The responsibilities of the Committee are two-fold:

- 1) The Committee reviews and acts upon petitions from Ph.D students concerning their programs of study, of which there are three types: 1) course of study petitions; 2) dissertation proposals; and 3) minor petitions requesting modification of a previously approved petition or, in rare instances, a degree requirement.
- 2) In consultation with the Dean of Students and the Ph.D student's advisor, the Committee reviews the academic progress of all doctoral students, and when appropriate may direct a change in status, to include putting a doctoral student or candidate on academic probation or administratively withdrawing a doctoral student or candidate from the Ph.D program.

The Committee has seven members. The Director of Doctoral Studies is a standing member and

the chair of the Committee. The Dean of Students is a standing member and is the committee's recorder; all administrative matters are handled by the Dean of Students. Membership for the five faculty members rotates, with members serving a two-year term and representing diverse Areas in the School.

The Committee ordinarily meets twice in the Autumn and Spring Quarters and once in the Winter Quarter. The Committee does not typically meet in the Summer Quarter but may do so if an extraordinary matter arises. The dates of meetings and the deadlines for submitting petitions may be obtained from the Dean of Students Office and on the Divinity School website.

Beginning in Autumn 2019: All petitions are submitted to the Dean of Students Office electronically using the form available on the Forms of Current Students [website](#). (Petitions will be forwarded by the Dean of Students Office to the student's advisor for approval before they are considered by the Committee on Doctoral Studies.) Course of Study Petitions and Dissertation Proposals must include a cover sheet that includes all required signatures. Petitions that do not observe the specified guidelines may not be reviewed by the Committee.

The Dean of Students communicates the decisions of the Committee by email, copying the student's Advisor. A copy of the email is added to the student's electronic file.

#### Minor Petitions

Students may submit minor petitions for the following reasons: 1) to modify a previously approved Course of Study petition (exams, examiners, advisor, languages, PTP, or timeline); 2) to adjust the timeline of exams as specified in their Second Year Progress Conference report; 3) to make modifications to their dissertation committee or completion timeline as articulated in the dissertation proposal, or 4) in rare instances, to petition to adjust a degree requirement or extend maximum registration. Any Minor Petition to make any of the above changes requires a statement of the existing (exams, examiners, advisor, languages, PTP element, timeline, or Area); a statement of the proposed change, and a rationale for the change, as well as signatures from the student, advisor, and relevant faculty (e.g. new examiner if one is changing examiners).

Minor Petitions are submitted electronically to the Dean of Students Office on the Forms for Current Students [website](#). After submission the Dean of Students Office will contact the advisor, examiners, and teaching mentor as necessary for approval.

Students most frequently use minor petitions to change their qualifying examinations and/or examiners. Such a petition must include a listing of the approved set of exams, using the correct names and numbers of the exams as listed in the Divinity School Announcements, as well as a clear indication of the requested change. This summary statement should be accompanied by a rationale for the change.

In the case of a change in examiners or advisors, The Director of Doctoral Studies and/or the Dean of Students ensures that the prior examiner or advisor are aware of the change and facilitates any discussions indicated for a smooth transition.

Students may also submit minor petitions to change their modern research language requirements. The petition should include the approved language(s), the requested language(s), the method of assessment for the new language(s), a statement that explains how the new language(s) will support the course of study, and a brief bibliography of works in the new language(s) connected to the course of study.

To petition for a maximum registration extension, students must submit a Minor Petition including a justification for the timeline extension and the external award letter and application materials for the award. It is recommended that students submit these petitions when receiving the external award. Petitioning for a maximum registration extension is only possible for students that matriculated into the doctoral program in Summer 2021 or later.

#### Changing Area of Study

In some circumstances, a Ph.D. student who already has had the course of study petition approved by the Committee on Doctoral Studies may wish to change the academic focus of that program from one to another of the Divinity School Areas of Ph.D. study. Such a change requires the submission of a new course of study petition outlining the revised course of Ph.D. study, including the signature of the destination Area chair. The Director of Doctoral Studies and/or the Dean of Students ensures that the faculty of the Area from which the student is leaving are aware of the change and facilitates any discussions indicated for a smooth transition.

If a student desires to no longer affiliate with a standing Area and pursue an interdisciplinary area of study, the student should indicate their current Area, exams, examiners, and advisor as well as a description of the interdisciplinary area, advisor, exams, and examiners that they propose. The faculty listed as examiners in their Minor Petition will serve as the committee evaluating their yearly progress until the student reaches candidacy. The student should provide a description of and an intellectual rationale structuring their course of study in this way, clearly communicating the student's understanding of the proposed Area of concentration and how the course of study described addresses the work of that Area. The student should also indicate why it is necessary to structure their course of study outside of an existing Area.

## ACADEMIC PROBATION POLICY

The Divinity School Committee on Doctoral Studies reviews the academic progress of all doctoral students. Any student who fails to make satisfactory academic progress as evidenced by failing grades; failure to attain milestones as stipulated in this document or in the student's Course of Study Petition, Dissertation Proposal, or through assessment via annual student progress reviews, may be subject to academic probation by the Committee on Doctoral Studies. If academic probation is warranted and administered, the student will be notified in writing by the Committee on Doctoral Studies regarding a) what is required to regain good academic standing and b) the deadline for doing so, normally 1-2 quarters.

Failure to meet the terms of academic probation will result in the student's withdrawal from the program. A student may only be on academic probation once during their course of study. If a student who has already been on academic probation subsequently fails to achieve satisfactory academic progress a second time, the Committee on Doctoral Studies may withdraw the student from the program. The Dean of Students and/or Director of Doctoral Studies will meet with the student being placed on academic probation to inform the student of the probationary status. The student will be asked to confirm, in writing, receipt of the probationary document and they have read and fully understand the terms of the probation. A student's refusal to sign the probationary document does not prevent the Committee on Doctoral Studies from imposing the probationary status.

When a student is placed on academic probation, they maintain student status and all the rights and privileges afforded to such status. This includes access to student health insurance, student wellness services, borrowing privileges at the University libraries, faculty mentoring, etc. Probationary status is not annotated on the official transcript. Further, while in probationary status, students remain eligible to receive all components of the doctoral student funding package that they are eligible to receive, including the living stipend and USHIP premium coverage. Students may not hold teaching appointments while in a probationary status, unless the probation is directly linked to the completion of the PTP milestone.

Of course, there are personal and/or medical situations that may require reconsideration of these milestone deadlines for students and candidates. These individual cases will be considered through the lens of University policies pertaining to leaves of absence, milestone extensions, and academic modification by the Dean of Students who will consult with the Director of Doctoral Studies and inform the Committee on Doctoral Studies about such extensions. The Committee on Doctoral Studies may also grant a milestone extension on its own authority.

## APPLICATION TO THE PH.D. PROGRAM FOR INTERNAL M.A. AND M.DIV. STUDENTS

Students in their final year of the M.A. or M.Div. programs may apply for admission to the Ph.D. program. Students with only an AMRS may not apply for admission to the Ph.D. program unless they have a two-year master's degree in a relevant field. Admission to or completion of any of the masters-level programs does not guarantee admission to the Ph.D. program. There is no internal petition system for M.A. or M.Div. students; all applicants to the Ph.D. program use the same application process and timeline.

## DUAL PH.D. PROGRAMS

Students in the Divinity School's Ph.D. program may apply to complete a joint Ph.D. program in another school or division of the University. To do so, the student should consult the departmental administrator and the Dean of Students office in the appropriate school or division as well as the Divinity School Dean of Students. As a rule, all requirements of both programs must be fulfilled, which normally necessitates additional coursework (though courses taken in the Divinity School may be counted towards coursework requirements in the other school or division, and vice versa), and completion of two sets of qualifying examinations, a combined PTP, and dissertation proposal colloquium for both departments. A single dissertation is produced, with a Divinity School faculty member chairing or co-chairing the dissertation committee.

Students in other schools and divisions of the university may likewise petition to pursue a joint Ph.D. program in the Divinity School. To do so, the student should consult the Divinity School Dean of Students and the Dean of Students in their home school or division. All requirements of both programs must be fulfilled (see paragraph above). Petitions for joint degrees from non-Divinity students must be approved by the faculty of the Area in which the student wishes to study and by the Divinity School's Committee on Doctoral Studies through the Course of Study Petition process.

As with all doctoral students, those who undertake a dual program must pay particular attention to their timeline for completion and should work closely with their Advisor to ensure that they stay on track. As part of their Course of Study petition, dual degree students must submit a timeline indicating their plans for each year of their programs.

## TA APPOINTMENTS

### TA Selection Guidelines

In selecting teaching assistants, the faculty have two important responsibilities: choosing the TAs best suited to supporting instruction in a given course or classroom and providing the training opportunities to graduate students that they are required to fulfill under the terms of the GAI and/or PTP. In order to meet those dual responsibilities, appointments should be made based on applicant qualifications, with preference given to students that have not fulfilled the teaching requirements (until the PTP is fully implemented at which time students who have fulfilled their teaching requirements will not be able to hold teaching appointments).

Please see the PTP FAQs for questions about remuneration while holding a teaching position.

#### CERTIFICATION IN RELIGIOUS LEADERSHIP FOR PH.D. STUDENTS

Doctoral students in the Divinity School with an interest in ministry may apply to complete a year of coursework and field work leading to the granting of a certificate in religious leadership. This program is intended for students whose ultimate educational and professional goals require scholarly attainment in one of the fields of religious studies, and who also desire the professional educational qualifications for religious leadership.

To complete this certificate, doctoral students must successfully complete the Arts of Ministry course sequence, the field education practicum and accompanying field placement, and major papers in religious thought, religious community, and a particular issue in religious life or leadership.

To enter the program, a student must have the consent of their academic advisor, the Director of Ministry Studies, and Committee on Doctoral Studies. Students must submit a minor petition to the Committee on Doctoral Studies prior to the desired certification year. Before receiving the certification, the student must complete all requirements for the Ph.D. degree, including the dissertation.

Students who matriculated before Summer 2016 must complete the requirements of the certificate within their 12-year maximum registration period. Students who have exhausted GAI funding will receive a \$2,000 per quarter field education stipend while holding the field placement.

Students that matriculated during or after Summer 2016 but before Summer 2021 must complete requirements of the certificate within their 9-year maximum registration period. Students will receive an additional \$2,000 per quarter field education stipend while holding the field placement.

Students that matriculate into the Ph.D. program in Summer 2021 or later must complete the requirements of the certificate within their 7-year maximum registration period. Students will receive a \$2,000 per quarter field education stipend while holding the field placement.

The requirements for the Certification in Religious Leadership are as follows:

1. Completion of nine approved courses:
  - A. Arts of Ministry in the autumn, winter, and spring quarters.
  - B. Three quarters of religious leadership and practice fieldwork and the Field Education Practicum Course.
  - C. Three courses in the history, theology, and/or philosophy of chosen tradition.
2. Submission of three papers on religious leadership to an examining committee. One paper must be an exposition of foundational theological or philosophical resources on which the student draws in conceptualizing and performing spiritual leadership. A second paper must develop a normative understanding of religious community in relation to the foundational position. At

third paper must explore a problematic context within which the religious community exists, and its work is performed. This paper may focus upon the personal, societal, or cultural dimensions of a problem. The student should select courses in addition to those in the Arts of Ministry sequence to assist in the preparation of these three papers.

3. Successful completion of an oral examination based on the above three papers. The oral examination will be conducted by a committee of at least four faculty members, including a chairperson. The examining committee may recommend additional requirements to be fulfilled by the student before awarding the Certification in Religious Leadership.

The Certification in Religious Leadership is conferred upon successful completion of the above program and the successful completion of all requirements for the Ph.D. degree, including the dissertation. In no case will the Certification in Religious Leadership be given to a student who fails to complete all requirements of the Ph.D. program.

### **RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICES**

The following recommendations for interactions between faculty and students aim to continue to enhance a culture of faculty support for students, calibrate expectations of and for students, and facilitate strong collaborations.

Meetings between advisors and advisees (face-to-face or virtually) should occur at least once a quarter and preferably at least once a month. Regular opportunities to check in facilitate conceptual development and avoid long periods where a student's struggles compound due to lack of engagement. Advisors and advisees should have explicit conversations about their mutual expectations regarding the frequency and modes of communications, standards for drafts, and the information advisors will need to write letters of reference etc.

Students in coursework should discuss their potential classes with their advisor before each registration period.

Advisors and committee members should provide written feedback for chapter drafts and drafts of other written materials (e.g. job application documents), ideally within three weeks, with a two-week turn-around strongly recommended. Oral feedback is also helpful. Advisors should work with advisees on the writing style of dissertation chapter drafts, ensuring that committee members read polished work rather than rough drafts requiring substantial grammatical and stylistic editing.

Students applying for jobs or fellowships should give faculty members a two-week lead time to submit letters of reference. Faculty and students should come to clear agreement in advance about what information the faculty member needs to write a comprehensive reference letter (CV, copy of student's cover letter, research and teaching statement, job ad, details of how to submit letters, etc.).

Advisors and advisees should have regular conversations with advisees about professional development including the career path or paths the advisee is considering. These conversations should include topics typical to academic career paths publications, presentations, teaching etc. as well as the recognition that students may pursue other career paths for a variety of reasons. Both students and faculty should remember the resources of the UChicago Grad PATHS program regarding various types of careers a Ph.D. student can have.

Typical Doctoral Course of Study

Year	Major Curricular Components	
		<i>Students in HC, HJ, HR, ISLM, PR, RAME, RETH, RLVC, THEO</i>
1	Coursework: Usually a minimum of 2 courses per quarter Language work as indicated Course of Study Petition submitted by end of Spring Quarter	
2	Coursework: Usually a minimum of 2 courses per quarter Language work as indicated Second-Year progress conference with Area faculty in Spring Quarter Pedagogical Training: Teaching @ Chicago Conference; Inclusive Teaching Workshop	
3	Exam preparation 1 or 2 minor teaching experiences Pedagogical Training: Teaching @ Chicago Conference; Inclusive Teaching Workshop	
	Qualifying Exams by end of year	Third year review
4	Develop dissertation proposal and achieve candidacy by end of Spring Quarter	Qualifying Exams Develop dissertation proposal
	1 or 2 minor teaching experiences	
5		Achieve candidacy by end of Autumn Quarter
	Research & Write dissertation Teach stand-alone content course (major teaching experience) Write teaching statement and receive feedback from teaching mentor	
6 (&7)	Write dissertation Midpoint Review Defend dissertation and deposit with Dissertation Office	

## AUTUMN 2023 QUARTER

### SEPTEMBER 2023

1 F Last day to:

- Submit seminary bi-registration requests to DOS for Autumn term

**4 M LABOR DAY OBSERVED | University Holiday, Divinity School Offices closed**

13-22 Divinity School New Student Orientation (14-15: online portion; 18-22: in-person)

18 M Course registration for Autumn Quarter opens for graduate students in the [my.uchicago.edu](https://my.uchicago.edu) student portal; at 8:30AM

19 TU Autumn Quarter Divinity School TA Training, 2PM, online

21 TH PhD Students: Teaching@UChicago Conference, 12PM-4PM, registration required

22 F Divinity School Welcome Ceremony

Master's Student Stipend Payment Date (returning students)

### WEEK 1

26 TU Autumn Quarter courses begin

29 F Last day to:

- Make course registration adjustments in the [my.uchicago.edu](https://my.uchicago.edu) student portal, additional changes may be requested through Wednesday, October 11<sup>th</sup> using the [Registration Adjustment Form](#)
- Apply to graduate in Autumn Quarter, application in my.uchicago.edu student portal
- Apply to take AMRS Oral Exam in the Autumn Quarter, form on the [DOS website](#)
- Apply to take PhD Qualifying Exams in the Autumn Quarter, form on the [DOS website](#)
- Apply to hold PhD Second-Year Conference in the Autumn Quarter, form on the [DOS website](#)
- Apply to hold Dissertation Defense in Autumn Quarter, form on the [DOS website](#)
- Submit Course of Study Petitions, Dissertation Proposals, and/or Minor Petitions for review by the Committee on Doctoral Studies in Week 4, forms on the [DOS website](#)
- Doctoral Student Stipend Payment Date (new students only)

### OCTOBER 2023

#### WEEK 2

2 M DiviniTEA, 8:30AM-10:00AM, Common Room

4 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

6 F Master's Student Stipend Payment Date (new students)

Bi-weekly Payment Date (students jobs and supplemental stipends)

## University of Chicago Divinity School 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

### WEEK 3

- 10 TU PhD Cohort Advising Meeting- Dissertation Proposal, 11:00 AM, Online
- 11 W DIV Development Days (PhD Applications Session 1), 11:30AM-12:30PM, Common Room
- 11 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel  
Last day to request course registration changes, including add/drop courses and changing courses to Pass/Fail/Audit; use the [Registration Adjustment Form](#)
- 12 TH PhD Cohort Advising Meeting- Qualifying Examinations, 10:30AM, Online
- 13 F Last day to request a waiver of the Autumn Quarter Graduate Student Services Fee (through the Student Portal > My Account > Student Services Fee); for students residing at least 50 miles away from the Hyde Park campus

### WEEK 4 (PhD Dissertation Defense period begins | Committee on Doctoral Studies Meeting)

- 16 M DiviniTEA, 8:30AM-10:00AM, Common Room
- 17 TU Supplemental Funding Application for the first round of Autumn Quarter due
- 18 W DIV Development Days (PhD Applications Session 2), 11:30AM-12:30PM, Common Room  
Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel
- 20F New Students: Proof of Immunization due, see [UChicago Student Wellness](#)  
Bi-weekly Payment Date (student jobs and supplemental stipends)

### WEEK 5 (PhD Written Qualifying Examination period begins)

- 25 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel  
Supplemental Funding Application decisions released

### WEEK 6 (PhD Written Qualifying Examination period continues and concludes)

- 30 M DiviniTEA, 8:30AM-10:00AM, Common Room  
Winter Quarter course schedule published in the my.uchicago.edu student portal
- 31 T Doctoral Student Stipend Payment Date (incoming and returning students)

## **NOVEMBER 2023**

- 1 W DIV Development Days (PhD Applications Session 3), 11:30AM-12:30PM, Common Room  
Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel  
Faculty: Last day to submit dissertation evaluation forms to the DOS Office for Autumn Quarter PhD graduates, form on the [Information for Faculty website](#)
- 3 F Bi-weekly Payment Date (student jobs and supplemental stipends)
- WEEK 7 (PhD Oral Examinations period begins)
- 8 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

## University of Chicago Divinity School 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

PhD Students: Last day to submit completed dissertations to the Dissertation Office to be considered for Autumn Quarter graduation; 4:30PM CST

10 F Supplemental Funding application for the second round of Autumn Quarter due

WEEK 8 (AMRS Oral Examination period begins | PhD Oral Examinations period continues | PhD Second Year Conference period begins)

13 M Course registration for Winter Quarter opens for graduate students in the [my.uchicago.edu](https://my.uchicago.edu) student portal; at 8:30AM

15 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

17 F Bi-weekly Payment Date (student jobs and supplemental stipends)

### ***20-24 FALL BREAK / NO CLASSES***

20 M Supplemental Funding Application decisions released

23 TH Faculty: Grades from previous quarters due

### ***23-24 THANKSGIVING OBSERVED / University Holiday, Divinity School Offices closed***

WEEK 9 (PhD Second-Year Conference period continues and concludes)

29 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

30 TH BOND & DOS Study Break, 12PM-2PM, Common Room

Doctoral Student Stipend Payment Date (incoming and returning students)

## **DECEMBER 2023**

1 F INSTRUCTION ENDS

Last day to:

- Faculty: Submit milestone evaluation forms for PhD students PhD student evaluation forms for required milestones to the DOSO for review by the Committee on Doctoral Studies, forms available on the [Information for Faculty website](#)
- PhD Students: Submit Course of Study Petitions, Dissertation Proposals, and/or Minor Petitions for review by the Committee on Doctoral Studies: **final Autumn 2023 Quarter submission date**, using forms on [DOS website](#)
- Submit seminary bi-registration requests to DOS for Winter/Spring terms
- Bi-weekly Payment Date (students jobs and supplemental stipends)

2-9 READING AND EXAMINATION PERIOD

9 SA AUTUMN QUARTER ENDS

11-22 Committee on Doctoral Studies Meeting (TBD)

## University of Chicago Divinity School 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

- 13 W Faculty: Autumn Quarter grades due
- 13 W Winter Quarter TA Training, 2PM, online
- 15 F Bi-weekly Payment Date (student jobs and supplemental stipends)
- 29 F Doctoral Student Stipend Payment Date (incoming and returning students)  
Bi-weekly Payment Date (student jobs and supplemental stipends)

***Winter Break: December 10, 2023- January 2, 2024 | No Classes***

***Winter Recess: December 25, 2023- January 2, 2024- University Holiday, Divinity School  
Offices closed***

### WINTER 2024 QUARTER

#### JANUARY 2024

***1 M NEW YEAR'S DAY OBSERVED | University Holiday, Divinity School Offices closed***

2 TU NO CLASSES

#### WEEK 1

3 W Winter Quarter courses begin

4 TH PhD applications for the priority round due

5 F Last day to:

- Make course registration adjustments in the [my.uchicago.edu](https://my.uchicago.edu) student portal, additional changes may be requested through Wednesday, January 17<sup>th</sup> using the [Registration Adjustment Form](#)
- Apply to graduate in Winter Quarter, application in my.uchicago.edu student portal
- Apply to take AMRS Oral Exam in the Winter Quarter, form on the [DOS website](#)
- Apply to take PhD Qualifying Exams in the Winter Quarter, form on the [DOS website](#)
- Apply to hold PhD Second-Year Conference in the Winter Quarter, form on the [DOS website](#)
- Apply to hold Dissertation Defense in Winter Quarter, form on the [DOS website](#)

#### WEEK 2

8 M DiviniTEA, 8:30AM-10:00AM, Common Room

10 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

#### WEEK 3

***15 M MLK DAY OBSERVED: University Holiday, No classes held and Divinity School Offices closed***

## University of Chicago Divinity School 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

16 TU PhD Cohort Advising Meeting- Qualifying Examinations, 10:30AM, Online

17 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

Last day to request course registration changes, including add/drop courses and changing courses to Pass/Fail/Audit; use the [Registration Adjustment Form](#)

18 TH PhD Cohort Advising Meeting- Course of Study Petition, 10:30AM, Online

19 F Last day to request a waiver of the Winter Quarter Graduate Student Services Fee (through the [Student Portal](#) > My Account > Student Services Fee); for students residing at least 50 miles away from the Hyde Park campus

WEEK 4 (PhD Dissertation Defense period begins)

23 TU PhD Cohort Advising Meeting- Second-Year Progress Conference, 10:30AM, Online

24 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

25 TH MA Bowling Social, 7:00PM-9:00PM, Seven Ten Lanes

WEEK 5 (PhD Dissertation Defense period continues and concludes | PhD Written Qualifying Examination period begins)

31 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

### **FEBRUARY 2024**

WEEK 6 (PhD Written Qualifying Examination period continues and concludes)

5 M DiviniTEA, 8:30AM-10:00AM, Common Room

Spring Quarter course schedule published in the [my.uchicago.edu](#) student portal

6 TU Summer Quarter course schedule published in the [my.uchicago.edu](#) student portal

7 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

Faculty: Last day to submit dissertation evaluation forms to the DOS Office for Winter Quarter PhD graduates, form on the [Information for Faculty website](#)

WEEK 7 (PhD Oral Qualifying Examination period begins)

14 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

PhD Students: Last day to submit completed dissertations to the Dissertation Office to be considered for Winter Quarter graduation; at 4:30PM CST

WEEK 8 (AMRS Oral Examination period begins | PhD Oral Qualifying Examination period continues and concludes | PhD Second-Year Conference period begins)

19 M Course registration for Spring Quarter opens for graduate students in the [my.uchicago.edu](#) student portal; at 8:30AM

## University of Chicago Divinity School 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

Supplemental Funding Application for Winter Quarter due

21 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

23 F Faculty: Grades from previous quarters due

WEEK 9 (PhD Second-Year Conference period continues and concludes)

26 M 2023-2024 Annual Review materials sent to students

28 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

Supplemental Funding Application decisions for Winter Quarter to be sent out

### **MARCH 2024**

1 F INSTRUCTION ENDS

Last day to:

- Faculty: Submit any PhD student milestone evaluation forms to the DOSO for review by the Committee on Doctoral Studies, forms available on the [Information for Faculty website](#)
- PhD Students: Submit Course of Study Petitions, Dissertation Proposals, and/or Minor Petitions for review by the Committee on Doctoral Studies, using forms on DOS Website, only Winter Quarter deadline.

2-9 READING & EXAM PERIOD

7 TH Spring Quarter TA Training, 2PM, Online

9 SA WINTER QUARTER ENDS

14 TH Faculty: Winter Quarter grades due

***Spring Break: March 10, 2024- March 16, 2024***

### **SPRING 2024 QUARTER**

#### **MARCH 2024**

WEEK 1

18 M Spring Quarter courses begin | Committee on Doctoral Studies Meeting (TBD)

21-22 Admitted Students Day

22 F 2023-2024 Annual Review: Student self-reflections due to the Dean of Students Office

Last day to:

- Make course registration adjustments in the [my.uchicago.edu](https://my.uchicago.edu) student portal, additional changes may be requested through Wednesday, April 3<sup>rd</sup> using the [Registration Adjustment Form](#)
- Apply to graduate in Spring Quarter, application in my.uchicago.edu student portal

## University of Chicago Divinity School 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

- Apply to take AMRS Oral Exam in the Spring Quarter, form on the [DOS website](#)
- Apply to take PhD Qualifying Exams in the Spring Quarter, form on the [DOS website](#)
- Apply to hold PhD Second-Year Conference in the Spring Quarter, form on the [DOS website](#)
- Apply to hold Dissertation Defense in Spring Quarter, form on the [DOS website](#)
- Submit seminary bi-registration requests to DOS for Summer terms

### WEEK 2

25 M DiviniTEA, 8:30AM-10:00AM, Common Room

Summer Quarter course registration opens for graduate students in the [my.uchicago.edu](http://my.uchicago.edu) student portal; at 8:30AM

27 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

### APRIL 2024

#### WEEK 3

1 M 2023-2024 Annual Review: Review materials sent to faculty advisors

3W DIV Development Days- Planning for Summer: Internships & Language Study, 11:30AM-12:30PM, Common Room

Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

Last day to request course registration changes, including add/drop courses and changing courses to Pass/Fail/Audit; use the [Registration Adjustment Form](#)

4 TH PhD Cohort Advising Meeting- Qualifying Examinations, 10:30AM, Online

5 F Last day to:

- Request waiver of the Spring Quarter Graduate Student Services Fee (through the Student Portal > My Account > Student Services Fee); for students residing at least 50 miles away from the Hyde Park campus

#### WEEK 4 (PhD Dissertation Defense period begins)

10 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

#### WEEK 5 ( PhD Dissertation Defense period continues and concludes | PhD Written Qualifying Exams period begins)

17 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

#### WEEK 6 (PhD Written Qualifying Exams period continues and concludes)

22 M DiviniTEA, 8:30AM-10:00AM, Common Room

## University of Chicago Divinity School 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

26 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

Faculty:

- Last day to submit dissertation evaluation forms to the DOS Office for Spring Quarter PhD graduates, form available on [Information for Faculty website](#)
- 2023-2024 Annual Review: Area Review materials for doctoral students not in candidacy are due to the Dean of Students Office.

WEEK 7

29 M Supplemental Funding Application for Spring Quarter due

### MAY 2024

WEEK 7 (PhD Oral Examination period begins)

1 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

PhD Students: Last day to submit completed dissertations to the Dissertation Office to be considered for Spring Quarter graduation; 4:30PM CST

WEEK 8 (AMRS Oral Examination period begins; PhD Second Year Conference period begins; PhD Oral Examination period continues and concludes)

8 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

Supplemental Funding Application decisions released

WEEK 9 (PhD Second-Year Conference period continues and concludes)

12 SU Faculty: Grades from previous quarters due

13 M Faculty: 2023-2024 Annual Review: Materials for doctoral candidates are due.

WEEK 9 (Continued)

15 W Open Space, 12:45PM-1:15PM, Bond Chapel

17 F INSTRUCTION ENDS

BONDS & DOS Study Break, 12:00PM-2:00PM, Common Room

Last day to:

- Faculty: Last day to submit any milestone evaluation forms to the DOS for review by the Committee on Doctoral Studies, forms available on the Information for Faculty website, using forms on the [Information for Faculty website](#).
- PhD Students: Last day to submit Course of Study Petitions, Dissertation Proposals, and/or Minor Petitions for review by the Committee on Doctoral Studies; **final Spring 2023 Quarter submission date**, using forms on [DOS website](#)

18-25 READING AND EXAMINATION PERIOD

University of Chicago Divinity School 2023-2024 Academic Calendar

**27 M MEMORIAL DAY OBSERVED: University Holiday, Divinity School Offices are closed.**

28 TU Faculty: Grades for Spring quarter graduating students are due.

30 TH Faculty: Spring quarter grades are due for all other students.

31 F Divinity School Diploma & Hooding Ceremony | Rockefeller Chapel | 12:30PM

**JUNE 2024**

1 SA University Convocation (Main Quad) & Diploma Distribution (Swift Hall)

SPRING QUARTER ENDS

4-16 Committee on Doctoral Studies Meetings

10 M Supplemental Funding Application for Summer Quarter due

18 TU Supplemental Funding Application decisions released