FLAGG MILLER, DEPARTMENT CHAIR  
Study of Religion Graduate Group

SETH SANDERS, CHAIR  
Study of Religion Graduate Group

RE: Study of Religion Graduate Group Degree Requirements

Enclosed is a copy of the Study of Religion graduate degree requirements as approved by Graduate Council on May 14, 2019. These degree requirements are now the official requirements for the Study of Religion Graduate Group and will be posted on the Office of Graduate Studies program webpage:

https://grad.ucdavis.edu/programs/grel

Thank you for your efforts on behalf of graduate education.

Sincerely,

Carlee Arnett, Chair  
Graduate Council

CC: Amanda Kimball, Graduate Studies Analyst  
Maria Ruby, Graduate Group Coordinator  
Felicia Murdoch, Educational Policy Committee Analyst
Graduate Group in The Study of Religion Degree Requirements
Revised: January 11, 2010
Approved by the Graduate Council: May 14, 2019

M.A. Degree Requirements

1) Admissions Requirements:
   Students will not be admitted directly to the M.A. program; admitted students can earn the M.A. en route to the Ph.D. by submitting a Change of Degree Objective Form.

2) Master of Arts degree in the Study of Religion, Master’s Plan II (Comprehensive Examination)
   There are 36 required hours of coursework of which at least 18 units must be graduate courses in the major field. Not more than 9 units of research (299 or equivalent) may be used to satisfy the 18-unit requirement. A comprehensive final examination in the major subject is required of each candidate. No thesis is required.

3) Course Requirements: 36 units
   a) Core Courses: 16 units
      REL 200A. Historical Roots of the Study of Religion (4 units)
      REL 200B. Foundational Theories of Religion (4 units)
      REL 200C. Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion (4 units)
      REL XXX. Field Profile Seminar I-II (2 units each; 4 units total)

   b) Elective Courses: 20 units minimum
      As they develop their graduate studies, students will choose one Regional Area of Specialization (RAOS) one Thematic Area of Specialization (TAOS), and one Area of Competence (AOC). The Area of Competence will normally be a secondary religious tradition chosen to complement the primary Regional Area of Specialization (RAOS). Courses in the Area of Competence are not required for fulfillment of the Master’s degree requirements. Students will choose electives from Attachment A with the approval of the Graduate Adviser. It is expected that at least one course will count toward both Regional and Thematic Areas of Specialization unit requirements.

      Regional Areas of Specialization: 3 courses in one of the following areas:
      • American Religious Cultures
      • Mediterranean Religions
      • Asian Religions

      Thematic Areas of Specialization: 3 courses in one of the following areas:
      • Values, Ethics, and Human Rights
      • Modernity, Science, and Secularism
      • Visual Culture, Media and Technology
      • Language, Rhetoric and Performance
      • Body and Praxis
      • Theory and Method

   c) Area of Competence (OPTIONAL): 2 courses from a secondary Regional Area of Specialization

   c) Summary:
   Students are required to complete a minimum of 36 units: 16 Core units and 20 Elective units (minimum). It is expected that at least one course (4 units) will count toward both Regional and Thematic Areas of Specialization unit requirements. A minimum course load is 12 units per quarter.
Table 1. M.A. unit requirements in the Study of Religion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Coursework in the Study of Religion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theory and Method Proseminars</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Profile Seminar</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Area of Specialization</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thematic Area of Specialization</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total units (unadjusted)</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is expected that at least one course will be taken that will</td>
<td>- 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>count toward both the Regional Area of Specialization requirement</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total minimum required units</td>
<td>36</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

4) Special Requirements:

**Foreign Languages:** The degree in the Study of Religion will only be awarded after students have met the program requirements for fluency in foreign languages. Students trained in the Graduate Group in the Study of Religion will be expected to master the necessary languages of primary research and languages of contemporary scholarship.

Languages of primary research are languages necessary for the examination of primary texts in the student’s area of specialization, for example Arabic, Greek, Hebrew or Sanskrit. The necessary languages of primary research for each student will be determined by the Major Professor, in consultation with the Graduate Committee. It is expected that students will have begun study of at least one language of primary research before admission to the Graduate Group; no more than 12 units of instruction in these languages will count toward the fulfillment of graduate coursework requirements.

Traditional departments of Religious Studies have established French and German as the dominant languages of scholarship in the field; students whose course of study in Religion requires the mastery of a significant body of literature in another language of contemporary scholarship may petition to substitute that language for either French or German. Mastery of a language of scholarship for the purposes of the graduate degree may be demonstrated by passing a language placement examination, passing a reading course in French or German with a grade of B or better, by passing a translation examination administered by the student’s Graduate Committee, or through an evaluation of fluency by a faculty member working in the relevant language. This mastery must be demonstrated before students are allowed to advance to candidacy, that is, before students take their doctoral qualifying exams.

The level of language instruction currently offered at UC Davis will be sufficient preparation for students in the discipline. Students who wish to continue their studies beyond the expectations of the program will be encouraged to participate in an intercampus exchange program within the UC system, for example at UC Berkeley, or may take advantage of university-administered language programs elsewhere.
5) Committees:

a) Admissions Committee:

Once the completed application, all supporting material, and the application fee have been received, the application will be submitted to the Admissions Committee. The Committee consists of Group members and a non-voting, ex officio Graduate Adviser. Based on a review of the entire application, a recommendation is made to accept or decline an applicant's request for admission. No student will be admitted without an agreement from a faculty member in the Graduate Group to serve as the student's Major Professor. The recommendation of the Admissions Committee is forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval of admission. Notification of admissions decisions will be sent by Graduate Studies. Applications are accepted through Dec 15 of the previous year for the next Fall entering class.

b) Comprehensive Examination Committee:

The student, in consultation with his/her major professor and graduate advisor, nominates five faculty members, to serve on the Examination Committee. One of the nominated faculty members will be the major professor, who does not serve as committee chair. At least three of the faculty members nominated must be faculty participating in the GGSR; at least one of the faculty members will be from outside the GGSR. These nominations are submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for formal appointment in accordance with Graduate Council policy (DDB 80. Graduate Council B.1.)

6) Advising Structure and Mentoring:

The Major Professor is the faculty member who supervises the student's research and dissertation; this person serves as the Chair of the Dissertation Committee. The principal duties of Graduate Advisers are: advising with regard to the program of study and advising students regarding the group members on their qualifying exam and dissertation committees. There must be at least one Graduate Adviser for every 15 graduate students. Advisers will serve a term of three years, and are appointed in compliance with the policies and procedures of the Graduate Council and the Office of Graduate Studies. If possible, the student’s major professor will not be the student’s graduate adviser.

The Graduate Group in the Study of Religion fully subscribes to the Mentor Guidelines approved by the UC Davis Graduate Council in June 1999. These are available online at:

http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/gradcouncil/policiesall.html

7) Advancement to Candidacy:

Students will typically advance to candidacy for the degree of Master of Arts in the Study of Religion at the end of the second year of coursework.

Following the guidelines found in the Graduate Adviser’s Handbook, “Every student must file an official application for Candidacy for the Degree of Master of "_" after completing one-half of their course requirements and at least one quarter before completing all degree requirements. The Candidacy for the Degree of Master form can be found online at: http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/forms/. A completed form includes a list of courses the student will take to complete degree requirements. If changes must be made to the student's course plan after s/he has advanced to candidacy, the Graduate Adviser must recommend these changes to Graduate Studies. Students must have their Graduate Adviser and thesis committee Chair sign the candidacy form before it can be submitted to Graduate Studies. If the candidacy is approved, the Office of Graduate Studies will send a copy to: the Thesis Committee Chair, the appropriate graduate staff person, and the student. If the Office of Graduate Studies determines that a student is not eligible for advancement, the department and the student will be told the reasons for the application’s deferral. Some reasons for deferring an application include: grade point average below 3.0, outstanding "I" grades in required courses, or insufficient units."
8) **Comprehensive Examination Requirements:**

All students will be given substantive written examinations at the end of each of the three required courses to be taken during their first year, 200A, 200B, and 200C. These examinations will be separate from the final examination or paper requirements for the course, and will form the first part of the comprehensive examination for each student. They will allow students to receive detailed feedback on their progress and standing within the program at the end of their first year.

Students who satisfy the examiners during their first year will be required, typically at the end of their second year, to give a 40-50 minute oral presentation to the examination committee, and any other interested faculty, demonstrating mastery of their specific area of concentration and its relation to the broader field of Religious Studies. The oral presentation is the culmination of the Area of Specialization Profile (AOSP). Following the presentation, an oral examination takes place with the examination committee to conclude the evaluation of the student’s mastery.

Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in either the written or the oral part of these examinations will be allowed to re-take the examinations in whole or in part one additional time.

The results of all examinations must be reported to Graduate Studies using the Master’s Report Form (http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/forms/). When students take the exam, they must be registered or in current filing fee status.

9) **Normative Time to Degree.**

It is anticipated that most students will complete the requirements and comprehensive exam in two years.

10) **Typical Time Line and Sequence of Events:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200A Historical Roots of the Study of Religion</td>
<td>200B Foundational Theories of Religion</td>
<td>200C Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Advanced Language Training</td>
<td>Advanced Language Training</td>
<td>Advanced Language Training</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 level course (RAOS)</td>
<td>200 level course (RAOS)</td>
<td>200 level course (TAOS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Two</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>200 level course (RAOS)</td>
<td>200 level course (RAOS)</td>
<td>200 level course (RAOS/TAOS)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>200 level course (TAOS)</td>
<td>200 level course (TAOS)</td>
<td>Directed Study with GGSR faculty</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of Competence (AOC) course</td>
<td>210 Field Profile Seminar for AOSP</td>
<td>210 Field Profile Seminar for AOSP (Comprehensive Exam completed)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

11) **Sources of Funding:** Most graduate students will be funded by Teaching Assistantships in the Religious Studies program, which currently employs 12-14 TAs per year. In addition, courses of 50 students or more in Religious Studies are currently eligible for funding from the HArCS Dean’s office for Readers; we expect graduate students in the GGSR to be the majority of these Readers. Students in
the GGSR will also apply for both internal and external fellowships and graduate scholarships, and will apply for graduate financial aid as needed.

12) PELP, In Absentia and Filing Fee status.

Information about PELP (Planned Educational Leave), In Absentia (reduced fees when researching out of state), and Filing Fee status can be found in the Graduate Student Guide: http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/publications/
Ph.D. Degree Requirements

1) Admissions Requirements:
Successful applicants for admission to the Graduate Program in the Study of Religion must apply by December 15 for Fall entry, must meet the UC Davis minimum undergraduate GPA requirement for admission (3.0), and must:

1. Hold a Bachelor’s or Master’s degree in a discipline relevant to the Study of Religion (such as Religious Studies, History, Philosophy, or Anthropology).
2. Demonstrate proficiency in English: applicants who have not studied at an English-language university must meet the Office of Graduate Studies minimum TOEFL score requirement, or the equivalent on another University-approved examination.
3. Submit three letters of recommendation.
4. Submit a Statement of Purpose.
5. Have a confirmed Major Professor: Prior to admission, a member of the GGSR in good standing must confirm that s/he is willing to act as the student’s Major Professor.
6. Students must have begun study of at least one language relevant to the intended area of primary research before admission.

a) Prerequisites: Substantive undergraduate work in Religious Studies or in a related field (such as History, Philosophy, or Anthropology) will also be expected of all applicants. The undergraduate major requirements in Religious Studies at UC Davis are: five lower-division courses in Religious Studies and ten upper-division courses in Religious Studies and related fields, fifteen courses total; given the diverse nature of topics covered in Religious Studies, the specific content of these courses is not standardized. Applicants to the program in the Study of Religion must have completed an amount of work at least equivalent to that of the UC Davis undergraduate Religious Studies major. For applicants coming from a school on the semester system, admission to the GGSR would require a total of ten courses in Religious Studies or in a field related to Religious Studies, of which at least seven should be upper-division courses. Applicants may contact the Study of Religion office for guidance on courses that may be acceptable.

b) Deficiencies: Applicants who have not completed the required prior coursework will not be admitted to the program.

2) Dissertation Plan:
The program will offer Dissertation Plan C, as described in section 520 of the Davis Division Academic Senate Regulations. This plan requires a minimum three-member dissertation committee, a final oral examination, and no exit seminar.

3) Course Requirements:

a) Core Courses (16 units):
REL 200A. Historical Roots of the Study of Religion (4 units)
REL 200B. Foundational Theories of Religion (4 units)
REL 200C. Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion (4 units)
REL XXX Field Profile Seminar I-II (2 units each; 4 units total)

b) Elective Courses: minimum 44 units
As they develop their graduate studies, students will choose one Regional Area of Specialization (RAOS), one Thematic Area of Specialization (TAOS), and one Area of Competence (AOC). The Area of Competence will normally be a secondary religious tradition chosen to complement the primary Regional Area of Specialization (RAOS). Students will choose electives from Attachment A with the approval of the Graduate Adviser. It is expected that at least one course will count toward both Regional and Thematic Areas of Specialization unit requirements. In addition to the requirements for the RAOS, TAOS and AOC, students must take 20 units of elective graduate-level courses; students may count up to 12 units of advanced language study in a primary language of research as part of their elective units, and may count up to 12 units of directed research with a GGSR faculty member as part of their elective units.
Regional Areas of Specialization: 3 courses in one of the following areas:
- American Religious Cultures
- Mediterranean Religions
- Asian Religions

Thematic Areas of Specialization: 3 courses in one of the following areas:
- Values, Ethics, and Human Rights
- Modernity, Science, and Secularism
- Visual Culture, Media and Technology
- Language, Rhetoric and Performance
- Body and Praxis
- Theory and Method

Area of Competence: 2 courses from a secondary Regional Area of Specialization

c) Summary:
Students are required to complete a minimum of 60 units: 16 Core units, and 44 Elective units (minimum). It is expected that at least one course will be taken that will count toward both the Regional Area of Specialization requirement and the Thematic Area of Specialization requirement, and one course will be taken that will count toward both the Area of Competence requirement and either the Regional Area of Specialization Requirement or the Thematic Area of Specialization requirement. A minimum course load is 12 units per quarter.

d) English Language Requirement
Students who have neither obtained a previous degree at an approved English-medium institution nor demonstrated English-language proficiency through an appropriate exam (e.g. TOEFL) are required to complete appropriate English-language courses, as described in the policy Graduate Student Course Requirements – English as Second Language (GC2018-02). Courses taken in satisfaction of this requirement do not count towards the units required for graduation.

Table 2. Ph.D. unit requirements in the Study of Religion

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Graduate Coursework in the Study of Religion</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Theory and Method Proseminars</td>
<td>12 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Field Profile Seminar</td>
<td>4 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Regional Area of Specialization</td>
<td>12 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Thematic Area of Specialization</td>
<td>12 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Area of Competence</td>
<td>8 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Additional Elective Courses (including advanced language study or directed research)</td>
<td>20 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total units (unadjusted)</td>
<td>68 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is expected that at least one course will be taken that will count toward both the Regional Area of Specialization requirement and the Thematic Area of Specialization requirement, and one course will be taken that will count toward both the Area of Competence requirement and either the Regional Area of Specialization Requirement or the Thematic Area of Specialization requirement</td>
<td>- 8 units</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total minimum required units</td>
<td>60 units</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
4) Special Requirements:

**Foreign Languages:** The degree in the Study of Religion will only be awarded after students have met the program requirements for fluency in foreign languages. Students trained in the Graduate Group in the Study of Religion will be expected to master the necessary languages of primary research and languages of contemporary scholarship.

Languages of primary research are languages necessary for the examination of primary texts in the student’s area of specialization, for example Arabic, Greek, Hebrew or Sanskrit. The necessary languages of primary research for each student will be determined by the Major Professor, in consultation with the Graduate Committee. It is expected that students will have begun study of at least one language of primary research before admission to the Graduate Group; no more than 12 units of instruction in these languages will count toward the fulfillment of graduate coursework requirements.

Traditional departments of Religious Studies have established French and German as the dominant languages of scholarship in the field; students whose course of study in Religion requires the mastery of a significant body of literature in another language of contemporary scholarship may petition to substitute that language for either French or German. Mastery of a language of scholarship for the purposes of the graduate degree may be demonstrated by passing a language placement examination, passing a reading course in French or German with a grade of B or better, by passing a translation examination administered by the student’s Graduate Committee, or through an evaluation of fluency by a faculty member working in the relevant language. This mastery must be demonstrated before students are allowed to advance to candidacy, that is, before students take their doctoral qualifying exams.

The level of language instruction currently offered at UC Davis will be sufficient preparation for students in the discipline. Students who wish to continue their studies beyond the expectations of the program will be encouraged to participate in an intercampus exchange program within the UC system, for example at UC Berkeley, or may take advantage of university-administered language programs elsewhere.

5) Committees:

- **a) Admissions Committee:**
  Once the completed application, all supporting material, and the application fee have been received, the application will be submitted to the Admissions Committee. The Committee consists of Group members and a non-voting, ex officio Graduate Adviser. Based on a review of the entire application, a recommendation is made to accept or decline an applicant’s request for admission. No student will be admitted without an agreement from a faculty member in the Graduate Group to serve as the student’s Major Professor. The recommendation of the Admissions Committee is forwarded to the Dean of Graduate Studies for final approval of admission. Notification of admissions decisions will be sent by Graduate Studies. Applications are accepted through Dec 15 of the previous year for the next Fall entering class.

- **b) Qualifying Examination Committee:**
  The student, in consultation with his/her Major Professor and Graduate Advisor, nominates four faculty members, to serve on the Qualifying Examination Committee. One of the nominated faculty members will be the major professor, who will not serve as committee chair. At least three of the faculty members nominated must be faculty participating in the GGSR; at least one of the faculty members will be from outside the GGSR. These nominations are submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for formal appointment in accordance with Graduate Council policy (DDB 80. Graduate Council B.1).

- **c) Dissertation Committee:**
  Upon successful advancement to doctoral candidacy, and in consultation with his/her Major Professor and Graduate Adviser, the student will nominate at least three faculty members to serve on the Dissertation Committee. One of these faculty members will act as chair of the committee and as the student’s primary dissertation adviser; typically this will be the student’s Major Professor. At least two of these committee members, including the committee chair, must be faculty participating in the GGSR; at least two of these committee members must have served on the student’s qualifying examinations committee. These nominations are submitted to the Office of Graduate Studies for formal appointment in accordance with Graduate Council
policy (DDB 80. Graduate Council B.1).
6) Advising Structure and Mentoring:

The Major Professor is the faculty member who supervises the student’s research and dissertation; this person serves as the Chair of the Dissertation Committee. The principal duties of Graduate Advisers are: advising with regard to the program of study and advising students regarding the group members on their qualifying exam and dissertation committees. There must be at least one Graduate Adviser for every 15 graduate students. Advisers will serve a term of three years, and are appointed in compliance with the policies and procedures of the Graduate Council and the Office of Graduate Studies. If possible, the student’s major professor will not be the student’s graduate adviser.

The Graduate Group in the Study of Religion fully subscribes to the Mentoring Guidelines approved by the UC Davis Graduate Council in June 1999. These are available online at: http://gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/gradcouncil/policiesall.html

7) Advancement to Candidacy:

The student is eligible for Advancement to Candidacy after successful completion of all graduate program degree requirements and after passing the Qualifying Examination. The student must file the appropriate paperwork with the Office of Graduate Studies and pay the candidacy fee in order to be officially promoted to Ph.D. Candidacy. Refer to the Graduate Council website for additional details regarding the Doctoral Qualifying Examination at http://graduatestudies.ucdavis.edu/gradcouncil/Doctoral%20Qualifying%20Examination

8) Dissertation requirements:

a) The Dissertation Plan is Plan C, as described in section 520 of the Davis Division Academic Senate Regulations. This plan requires a minimum three-member dissertation committee, a final oral examination, and no exit seminar.

b) Examination Requirements:

1. Preliminary Examinations:

   All students will be given substantive written examinations at the end of each of the three required courses to be taken during their first year, RST 200A, 200B, and 200C. These examinations will be separate from the final examination or paper requirements for the course, and will form the first part of the preliminary examination for each student. They will allow students to receive detailed feedback on their progress and standing within the program at the end of their first year.

   Students who satisfy the examiners during their first year will be required, typically at the end of their second year, to give a 40-50 minute oral presentation to the examination committee, and any other interested faculty, demonstrating mastery of their specific area of concentration and its relation to the broader field of Religious Studies. The oral presentation is the culmination of the Area of Specialization Profile (AOSP). Following the presentation, an oral examination takes place with the examination committee to conclude the evaluation of the student’s mastery.

   Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in either the written or the oral part of these examinations will be allowed to re-take the examinations in whole or in part one additional time. Students who fail the examination on the second attempt will be recommended for disqualification from the program.

2. Doctoral Qualifying Examinations:

   Students who have passed both the first and second parts of the preliminary examinations will take written and oral Doctoral Qualifying Exams before advancing to candidacy. These examinations must be taken by the end of the third year (9th quarter).

   The written examinations will consist, first, of three three-hour timed examinations to be coordinated by the administrative department over the course of one week (seven calendar days). Students will be allowed to use their own computers, including relevant notes,
documents, and materials on those computers, for the examinations. Any student who is found to have plagiarized on the written examinations, however, will face immediate expulsion from the graduate program.

After the written examinations have been taken, the examining committee will review the student’s work and will schedule an oral examination, at which all members of the examining committee must be present. This examination will typically take place within three weeks of the submission of the written examinations. The oral examination will be based on the student’s written examinations and on the material on the student’s examination reading list.

The second component of the Doctoral Qualifying Examinations will be the dissertation prospectus, which must be submitted to the Examination Committee during the same quarter in which the written examinations are taken.

The written component of the Qualifying Examination:

The written examinations will be based on each student’s regional and thematic areas of specialization and third area of competence, designed to show an additional area of teaching competence. Thus the written examinations will consist of three parts, covering:

1. The student’s regional area of specialization (RAOS)
2. The student’s thematic area of specialization (TAOS)
3. The student’s area of competence (AOC)

In preparation for their qualifying examinations, each student will compose a reading list in consultation with members of this committee, along with a 1-5 page introduction to the list, which must explain the list’s coherence and relation to the student’s areas of specialization; this list must be approved by the examining committee chair before the examinations can be scheduled. Examination questions will be based on the material on the student’s reading list.

The oral component of the Qualifying Examination:

The oral portion of the qualifying exam is intended to demonstrate the student’s critical thinking ability, powers of critical inquiry and synthesis, and broad knowledge of the field of study. The committee will evaluate the student's general qualifications as well as the student's preparation in a special area of study based upon relevant portions of the student's performance on specific parts of the examination, and the student's potential for scholarly research as indicated during the examination.

3. Dissertation Prospectus:

The doctoral candidate will be required to submit a dissertation prospectus of 10-15 pages, on a topic within the candidate’s chosen area of specialization, to her or his dissertation and qualifying exam committee during the same quarter in which the timed written examinations are taken. The dissertation prospectus serves as the final component of the Doctoral Qualifying Exams. This prospectus will outline the dissertation project, its methods, thesis, and expected contribution to scholarship, both within the field of specialization and within the field of Religious Studies more broadly. The prospectus must be approved by all members of the examination committee before the candidate begins work on the dissertation. In no case will a dissertation prospectus be approved whose topic lies within an area not covered by a student’s qualifying examinations.

The dissertation prospectus must include:

1. The title of the proposed dissertation;
2. A statement of the research question, detailing the specific area and aim of dissertation research;
3. A review of secondary literature relevant to the area of dissertation research;
4. A description of the proposed methodology of the project;
5. A timeline for completion of the project;
   Once the prospectus has been approved by all members of the examination committee, the candidate may begin work on the dissertation.

9) Normative Time to Degree.
   It is anticipated that most students will complete the requirements for the PhD and the dissertation by the end of their sixth year.

10) Typical Time Line and Sequence of Events:
   Course requirements will typically be satisfied by end of the first quarter of the third year; doctoral qualifying exams will be taken in the third quarter of the third year (9th quarter).

Sample program:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year One</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200A Historical Roots of the Study of Religion</td>
<td>200B Foundational Theories of Religion</td>
<td>200C Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Advanced Language Training</td>
<td>Advanced Language Training</td>
<td>Advanced Language Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200 level course (RAOS)</td>
<td>200 level course (RAOS)</td>
<td>200 level course (TAOS)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Two</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200 level course (RAOS)</td>
<td>200 level course (RAOS)</td>
<td>200 level course (RAOS/TAOS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200 level course (TAOS)</td>
<td>200 level course (TAOS)</td>
<td>Directed Study with GGSR faculty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Area of Competence (AOC) course</td>
<td>210 Field Profile Seminar for AOSP</td>
<td>210 Field Profile Seminar for AOSP (Preliminary Exam completed)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year Three</th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Winter</th>
<th>Spring</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Area of Competence (AOC) course</td>
<td>200 level course (RAOS)</td>
<td>200 level course (RAOS/TAOS)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>200 level course (RAOS/TAOS)</td>
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| Year Four  | Dissertation Research and Writing         |                                            |                                          |
| Year Five  | Dissertation Research and Writing         |                                            |                                          |
| Year Six   | Complete Dissertation                      |                                            |                                          |
11) **Sources of Funding:** Most graduate students will be funded by Teaching Assistantships in the Religious Studies program, which currently employs 12-14 TAs per year. In addition, courses of 50 students or more in Religious Studies are currently eligible for funding from the HArCS Dean’s office for Readers; we expect graduate students in the GGSR to be the majority of these Readers. Students in the GGSR will also apply for both internal and external fellowships and graduate scholarships, and will apply for graduate financial aid as needed. The Office of Graduate Studies has committed to providing $20,000 per year in block grant funding for the program: for the first three years of the program it is expected that this funding will come out of the Dean’s Commitment fund; after the first three years this funding is expected to be regularized through the Office of Graduate Studies.

12) **PELP, In Absentia and Filing Fee status.**

Information about PELP (Planned Educational Leave), In Absentia (reduced fees when researching out of state), and Filing Fee status can be found in the Graduate Student Guide: [http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/publications/](http://www.gradstudies.ucdavis.edu/publications/)

13) **Leaving the Program Prior to Completion of the PhD Requirements.**

Should a student leave the program prior to completing the requirements for the PhD, they may still be eligible to receive the Masters if they have fulfilled all the requirements (see Masters section). Students can use the Change of Degree Objective form available from the Registrar’s Office: [http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/PDFFiles/D065PetitionForChangeOfGraduateMajor.pdf](http://registrar.ucdavis.edu/PDFFiles/D065PetitionForChangeOfGraduateMajor.pdf)
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS ATTACHMENT A: ELECTIVE COURSES

African-American Culture and Religion. 4 units.
American Jews & the Media. 4 units.
Ancient Greek Sanctuaries. 4 units.
The Artifice of Religion: Constructing the Category. 4 units.
Augustine. 4 units.
The Black Church in the African American Experience. 4 units.
Comparative Genocide. 4 units.
Constructing Religion: Identity through Visual Culture. 4 units.
Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion. 4 units.
Conversion and Modernity. 4 units.
Death and Dying in South Asian Religious Traditions. 4 units.
The Divine Body: Understanding Divine Embodiment in Hindu India. 4 units.
Early American Literature. 4 units.
Early Christian Incarnations. 4 units.
The Early Christian Word. 4 units.
Evolution, Creationism, and Intelligent Design. 4 units.
Human Rights. 4 units.
Islam and Muslims in Modern South Asia. 4 units.
The Language of Heresy. 4 units.
Martyrdom and Identity in Late Antiquity. 4 units.
Pagans, Jews, and Christians in the Ancient World. 4 units.
Pakistan: State for Muslims or Muslim State. 4 units.
Psychoanalytic Approaches to Religion. 4 units.
Race, Religion, and Politics in America. 4 units.
Race, Religion, and Global Economics. 4 units.
Religion and the European Enlightenment. 4 units.
Religion and Media. 4 units.
Religion and Media in South Asia. 4 units.
Religion and Popular Culture. 4 units.
Religion and Postcoloniality. 4 units.
Religion and the Body. 4 units.
Religion and Violence. 4 units.
Religion in American Lives. 4 units.
Religion in the Reformation and Counter-Reformation (1450-1700). 4 units.
Religion, Magic, and Science. 4 units.
Religion, Performance, and Politics. 4 units.
Religion, the State, and Modernity. 4 units.
The Religious and Scientific Roots of the Secular Study of Religion. 4 units.
The Sacred en travesti: The Secular as a Travesty of the Sacred. 4 units.
The Secular within the Sacred: The Sharī'ā in Medieval and Early Modern Times. 4 units.
Sound and the Sacred. 4 units.
South Asian Religions and the Performing Arts. 4 units.
Text and Interpretation in Rabbinic Judaism. 4 units.