

Ph.D. in Urban Studies and Public Affairs - Program Overview

Phase One – Coursework

- Complete any necessary prerequisite courses
- Obtain a B or higher in **Core Courses** (16 credit hours):
 - UST 800: Urban Theory
 - UST 802: Logic of Inquiry
 - UST 803: Quantitative Research Methods I
 - UST 806: Research Methods in Urban Studies
- Complete 20 credit hours in a specialization area:
 - Public Administration
 - Urban Policy and Development
- Complete 12 credit hours (3 courses) of elective courses

Phase Two – Comprehensive Exams

Upon completion of all coursework, doctoral students must submit a comprehensive exam application form to the Program Director. The comprehensive exam procedures are as follows:

- Student proposes a committee of at least three members who are members of the graduate faculty
- A Plan of Work statement is prepared by the student and distributed to all members of the Exam Committee (a plan of work consists of a list of coursework completed, a description of student's proposed dissertation research area, and relevant annotated bibliography).
- When satisfied with the plan of work statement, the committee forms 3 to 4 questions based on this plan of work.
- Student has one week (seven full days, including weekends) to respond to comprehensive exam questions
- Student must pass all questions to pass the comprehensive exam.

Phase Three – Prospectus and Dissertation

- Upon successful completion of all comprehensive exams a Dissertation Committee is formed in consultation with primary advisor and Ph.D. Program Director
- Register for UST 895: Doctoral Research and begin to form Prospectus (15-20 page statement of research problem and proposed research on that problem)
- Register for UST 896: Prospectus and present formally at an open meeting
- Following successful defense of a prospectus and completion of comprehensive examinations, a student advances to candidacy becomes a "Ph.D. Candidate"
- Register for UST 899: Dissertation, continuously each Fall and Spring semester until degree completion ()
- Register for graduation well in advance of anticipated graduation date
- Defend dissertation no later than the end of the 10th week *of the semester the candidate intends to graduate*
- Upon successful defense of dissertation at a formal open meeting, student must follow the **Post-Defense Checklist** in order to graduate on time