**Doctor of Philosophy in Civil Engineering**

Work leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) is designed to give the candidate a thorough and comprehensive knowledge of his or her professional field and training in methods of research. The final basis for granting the degree shall be the candidate’s grasp of the subject matter of a broad field of study and a demonstrated ability to do independent research. In addition, the candidate must have acquired the ability to express thoughts clearly and forcefully in both oral and written languages. The degree is not granted solely for the completion of coursework, residence and technical requirements, although these must be met.

For a student who has completed a master's degree, a DDS/DMD, DVM or MD at a U.S. institution, a minimum of 64 hours is required on the degree plan for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. For a student who has completed a baccalaureate degree but not a master's degree or a U.S. DDS/DMD, DVM or MD, a minimum of 96 hours is required on the degree plan for the degree of Doctor of Philosophy.

### Steps to Fulfill Doctoral Degree Requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>When</th>
<th>Approved by</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Meet with departmental/intercollegiate graduate advisor to plan course of study for first semester.</td>
<td>Before first semester registration.</td>
<td>Graduate advisor.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Establish advisory committee. Submit a degree plan.</td>
<td>Prior to the deadline imposed by the student's college or intercollegiate programs, and no later than 90 days prior to preliminary examination.</td>
<td>Advisory committee, department head or intercollegiate faculty chair, and OGAPS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Complete English Language Proficiency requirements (if applicable), and coursework detailed on degree plan.</td>
<td>Before preliminary examination.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Complete the preliminary examination.</td>
<td>See steps for completing the preliminary examination. The preliminary examination results must have been submitted to OGAPS 14 weeks prior to the date of the defense.</td>
<td>Advisory committee, department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, and OGAPS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Submit proposal for dissertation or record of study to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.</td>
<td>No later than 20 working days prior to the submission of the Request for the Final Examination.</td>
<td>Advisory committee, department head or intercollegiate faculty chair, and OGAPS.</td>
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<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Complete residence requirement.</td>
<td>Before submitting request to schedule final oral examination.</td>
<td>OGAPS</td>
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<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Apply for degree; pay graduate fee.</td>
<td>During the first week of the final semester; see OGAPS calendar for deadlines.</td>
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<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Submit request for permission to hold and announce final oral examination.</td>
<td>Must be received by OGAPS at least 10 working days before requested exam date. See OGAPS calendar for deadlines.</td>
<td>Advisory committee, department head or intercollegiate faculty chair, and OGAPS.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Successfully complete final examination.</td>
<td>The Report of the Final Examination Form should be submitted to OGAPS within 10 days following the exam.</td>
<td>Advisory committee and OGAPS</td>
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</table>
### Program Requirements

**Program Requirements**

- Student's Advisory Committee
- Degree Plan
- Transfer of Credit
- Research Proposal
- Examinations
  - Preliminary Examination
  - Final Examination/Dissertation Defense
- Dissertation

**Student’s Advisory Committee**

After receiving admission to graduate studies and enrolling, the student will consult with the head of his or her major or administrative department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty) concerning appointment of the chair of the advisory committee. The student’s advisory committee will consist of no fewer than four members of the graduate faculty representative of the student’s several fields of study and research, where the chair or co-chair must be from the student’s department (or intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), and at least one or more of the members must have an appointment to a department other than the student’s major department. The outside member for a student in an interdisciplinary degree program must be from a department different from the chair of the student’s committee.

### Degree Plan

The student’s advisory committee will evaluate the student’s previous education and degree objectives. The committee, in consultation with the student, will develop a proposed degree plan and outline a research problem which, when completed, as indicated by the dissertation (or its equivalent for the degree of Doctor of Education or the degree of Doctor of Engineering), will constitute the basic requirements for the degree. The **degree plan must be filed with the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies prior to the deadline imposed by the student’s college and no later than 90 days prior to the preliminary examination.**

This proposed degree plan should be submitted through the online Document Processing Submission System located on the website [http://ogdppss.tamu.edu](http://ogdppss.tamu.edu). A minimum of 64 hours is required on the degree plan for the Doctor of Philosophy for a student who has completed a master’s degree. A student who has completed a DDS/DMD, DVM or a MD at a U.S. institution is also required to complete a minimum of 64 hours. A student who has completed a baccalaureate degree but not a master’s degree will be required to complete a 96-hour degree plan. Completion of a DDS/DMD, DVM or MD degree at a foreign institution requires completion of a minimum of 96 hours for the Doctor of Philosophy. A field of study may be primarily in one department or in a combination of departments.
departments. A degree plan must carry a reasonable amount of 691 or 5V98/5V99 (research).

Additional coursework may be added by petition to the approved degree plan by the student’s advisory committee if it is deemed necessary to correct deficiencies in the student’s academic preparation. No changes can be made to the degree plan once the student’s Request for Final Examination is approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Approval to enroll in any professional course (900-level) should be obtained from the head of the department (or Chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable) in which the course will be offered before including such a course on a degree plan.

No credit may be obtained by correspondence study, by extension or for any course of fewer than three weeks duration.

Transfer of Credit

Courses for which transfer credits are sought must have been completed with a grade of B or greater and must be approved by the student’s advisory committee and the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. These courses must not have been used previously for another degree. Except for officially approved cooperative doctoral programs, credit for thesis or dissertation research or the equivalent is not transferable. Credit for “internship” coursework in any form is not transferable. Courses taken in residence at an accredited U.S. institution or approved international institution with a final grade of B or greater will be considered for transfer credit if, at the time the courses were completed, the courses would be accepted for credit toward a similar degree for a student in degree-seeking status at the host institution. Credit for coursework taken by extension is not transferable. Coursework in which no formal grades are given or in which grades other than letter grades (A or B) are earned (for example, CR, P, S, U, H, etc.) is not accepted for transfer credit. Credit for coursework submitted for transfer from any college or university must be shown in semester credit hours, or equated to semester credit hours.

Courses used toward a degree at another institution may not be applied for graduate credit. If the course to be transferred was taken prior to the conferral of a degree at the transfer institution, a letter from the registrar at that institution stating that the course was not applied for credit toward the degree must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

Grades for courses completed at other institutions are not included in computing the GPR. An official transcript from the university at which transfer courses are taken must be sent directly to the Office of Admissions.

Research Proposal

The general field of research to be used for the dissertation should be agreed on by the student and the advisory committee at their first meeting, as a basis for selecting the proper courses to support the proposed research.

As soon thereafter as the research project can be outlined in reasonable detail, the dissertation research proposal should be completed. The research proposal should be approved at a meeting of the student’s advisory committee, at which time the feasibility of the proposed research and the adequacy of available facilities should be reviewed. The approved proposal, signed by all members of the student’s advisory committee, the head of the student’s major department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable), must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies at least 20 working days prior to the submission of the Request for the Final Examination.

Compliance issues must be addressed if a graduate student is performing research involving human subjects, animals, infectious biohazards and recombinant DNA. A student involved in these types of research should check with the Office of Research Compliance and Biosafety at (979) 458-1467 to address questions about all research compliance responsibilities. Additional information can also be obtained on the website rcb.tamu.edu.

Examinations

Preliminary Examination

The student’s major department (or chair of the intercollegiate faculty, if applicable) and his or her advisory committee may require qualifying, cumulative or other types of examinations at any time deemed desirable. These examinations are entirely at the discretion of the department and the student’s advisory committee.

The preliminary examination is required. The preliminary examination for a doctoral student shall be given no earlier than a date at which the student is within 6 credit hours of completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan (i.e., all coursework on the degree plan except 681, 684, 690, 691, 5V98, 5V99 and 692 courses). The student is strongly encouraged to complete the Preliminary Examination no later than the end of the semester following the completion of the formal coursework on the degree plan. The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies must receive the results of the preliminary examination at least 14 weeks prior to the final examination date. The examination shall be oral and written unless otherwise recommended by the student’s advisory committee and approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. The written part of the examination will cover all fields of study included in the student’s degree plan. Each member of the advisory committee is responsible for administering a written examination in his or her particular field, unless he or she chooses to waive participation in this part of the examination. Two or more members of the advisory committee may give a joint written examination. One or more members may require a student to take a departmental or intercollegiate faculty examination to supplement or replace a written examination. Each written examination must be completed and reported as satisfactory to the chair of the advisory committee before the oral portion of the examination may be held. In case any written examination is reported unsatisfactory, the entire advisory committee must agree (1) to proceed with the oral portion of the preliminary examination, or (2) to adopt another course of action regarding the unsatisfactory written examination.

Prior to scheduling the preliminary examination with the other committee members, the committee chair will review the eligibility criteria with the student, using the Preliminary Examination Checklist to ensure the student is ready for the examination. The following list of eligibility requirements applies.

- Student is registered at Texas A&M University for the semester or summer term during which any portion of the preliminary examination may fall. If the entire examination falls between semesters, then the student must be registered for the term immediately preceding the examination.
- An approved degree plan was on file with the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies at least 90 days prior to the first written examination.
Studies, using the Report of Doctoral Preliminary Examination form the Preliminary Examination to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. The chair of the advisory committee will promptly report the results of the exam to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, the department or intercollegiate faculty can have a stricter requirement provided there is agreement by all members of the graduate committee with at most one dissention is given. A positive vote written examinations available to the members of the advisory committee is given. The chair of the student’s advisory committee is responsible for making all the arrangements of the preliminary examination, an examination administered by a department or intercollegiate faculty, the department or intercollegiate faculty must:

1. offer the examination at least once every six months. The departmental or interdisciplinary degree program examination should be announced at least 30 days prior to the scheduled examination date.
2. assume the responsibility for marking the examination satisfactory or unsatisfactory, or otherwise graded, and in the case of unsatisfactory, stating specifically the reasons for such a mark.
3. forward the marked examination to the chair of the student’s advisory committee within one week after the examination.

The chair of the student’s advisory committee is responsible for making all written examinations available to the members of the advisory committee at or before the oral portion of the preliminary examination. A positive vote by all members of the graduate committee with at most one dissention is required to pass a student on his or her preliminary exam. A department or intercollegiate faculty can have a stricter requirement provided there is consistency within all degree programs within a department or an interdisciplinary degree program.

The chair of the advisory committee will promptly report the results of the Preliminary Examination to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, using the Report of Doctoral Preliminary Examination form and the Preliminary Examination checklist. Both forms must have the appropriate signatures. These forms should be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies within 10 working days of the scheduled preliminary examination.

The Report of Preliminary Examination form must be submitted with original signatures of the approved members of the advisory committee. If an approved committee member substitution (1 only) has been made, his/her signature must also be included on the forms submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. The original signature of the department head is also required on the form.

After passing the required oral and written preliminary examinations for the doctoral degree, the student must complete the final examination for the degree within four calendar years. Otherwise, the student will be required to repeat the preliminary examination. Upon approval of the student’s advisory committee, with no more than one member dissenting, and approval of the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, a student who has failed the preliminary examination may be given one re-examination. Adequate time must be given to permit the student to address the inadequacies emerging from the first examination (normally six months). The student and the advisory committee should jointly negotiate a mutually acceptable date for this purpose.

A student must be registered at Texas A&M University for a minimum of one semester credit hour in the semester or summer term in which they will take any portion of the Preliminary Examination.

Steps for Completing the Preliminary Examination

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<tr>
<th>Step</th>
<th>Action</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Establish advisory committee. Submit a degree plan. <strong>When:</strong> Prior to the deadline set by the student’s college, and no later than 90 days prior to preliminary examination. <strong>Approved by:</strong> Advisory committee, department or intercollegiate faculty chair, and Office of Graduate and Professional Studies (OGAPS).</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Complete English language proficiency requirements (if applicable), and coursework detailed on degree plan. <strong>When:</strong> Before preliminary examination.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Student and chair review eligibility requirements for the preliminary exam using the “Preliminary Examination Checklist”. <strong>When:</strong> Several weeks before the proposed date of the preliminary examination. Checklist must be signed by chair and department head, or intercollegiate faculty chair.</td>
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<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Student checks the availability of committee members. <strong>When:</strong> Several weeks before the proposed date of the preliminary examination.</td>
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</table>
Final Examination/Dissertation Defense

The candidate for the doctoral degree must pass a final examination by deadline dates announced in the “Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Calendar” each semester or summer term. The doctoral student is allowed only one opportunity to take the final examination. No student may be given a final examination unless his or her current official cumulative and degree plan GPAs are 3.000 or better and he or she has been admitted to candidacy. No unabsolved grades of D, F, or U for any course can be listed on the degree plan.

To absolve a deficient grade, a student must repeat the course and achieve a grade of C or better. A student must have completed all coursework on his or her degree plan with the exception of 691, 5V98, or 5V99 (research) or 692 (Professional Study) hours. The student must be registered for all remaining hours; no hours remain to be taken on the degree plan. The preliminary examination results must have been submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies 14 weeks prior to the date of the preliminary examination. The research proposal must have been submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies 25 working days prior to the date of the scheduled preliminary examination. Any changes to the degree plan must be approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies prior to the approval of the final examination. The request to hold and announce the final examination must be submitted to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies 30 working days prior to the date of the scheduled examination. The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies must review the document submitted with original signatures of only the committee members approved by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies.

The Office of Graduate and Professional Studies Calendar is available online at http://ogaps.tamu.edu.

A dissertation that is deemed unacceptable by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies because of excessive corrections will be returned to the student’s department head or chair of the intercollegiate faculty. The manuscript must be resubmitted as a new draft.

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<th>Students prepares and submits any petitions found necessary by the review of the eligibility requirements.</th>
<th>When: At least three weeks before the proposed date of the preliminary examinations.</th>
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<tr>
<td>Approved by: Advisory committee, department head or intercollegiate faculty chair, and OGAPS.</td>
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<tr>
<th>When exam date is determined, the department may announce the schedule.</th>
<th>Approved by: Committee chair, department head or intercollegiate faculty chair.</th>
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</table>

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<tr>
<th>Chair submits the Report of the Preliminary Examination and the Preliminary Examination Checklist to OGAPS.</th>
<th>When: Within 10 working days of the date of the scheduled oral examination and no later than 14 weeks prior to the final defense date.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Approved by: Advisory committee.</td>
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</table>

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Office of Graduate and Professional Studies notifies the student and chair of any actions necessary to rectify any deficiencies.</th>
<th>When: Upon receipt of the report of the doctoral Preliminary Examination.</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
Additional Requirements

Residence
A student who enters the doctoral degree program with a baccalaureate degree must spend one academic year plus one semester in resident study at Texas A&M University. A student who holds master’s degree when he/she enters doctoral degree program must spend one academic year in resident study. One academic year may include two adjacent regular semesters or one regular semester and one adjacent 10-week summer semester. The third semester is not required to be adjacent to the one year. Enrollment for each semester must be a minimum of 9 credit hours each to satisfy the residence requirement.

To satisfy the residence requirement, the student must complete a minimum of 9 credit hours per semester or 10-week summer semester in resident study at Texas A&M University for the required period. A student who enters a doctoral degree program with a baccalaureate degree may fulfill residence requirements in excess of one academic year (18 credit hours) by registration during summer sessions or by completion of a less-than-full course load (in this context a full course load is considered 9 credit hours per semester).

Students who are employed full-time while completing their degree may fulfill total residence requirements by completion of less-than-full time course loads each semester. In order to be considered for this, the student is required to submit a Petition for Waivers and Exceptions along with verification of his/her employment to the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies. An employee should submit verification of his/her employment at the time he/she submits the degree plan. See Registration.

See Residence Requirements.

Time Limit
All requirements for doctoral degrees must be completed within a period of ten consecutive calendar years for the degree to be granted. A course will be considered valid until 10 years after the end of the semester in which it is taken. Graduate credit for coursework more than ten calendar years old at the time of the final oral examination may not be used to satisfy degree requirements.

After passing the required preliminary oral and written examinations for a doctoral degree, the student must complete the final examination within four calendar years. Otherwise, the student will be required to repeat the preliminary examination.

A final corrected version of the dissertation or record of study in electronic format as a single PDF file must be cleared by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies no later than one year after the final examination or within the 10-year time limit, whichever occurs first. Failure to do so will result in the degree not being awarded.

Continuous Registration
A student in a program leading to a Doctor of Philosophy who has completed all coursework on his/her degree plan other than 691, 5V98 or 5V99 (research) are required to be in continuous registration until all requirements for the degree have been completed. See Continuous Registration Requirements.

Admission to Candidacy
To be admitted to candidacy for a doctoral degree, a student must have:

1. completed all formal coursework on the degree plan with the exception of any remaining 681, 684, 690 and 691, or 5V98 and 5V99,
2. a 3.0 Graduate GPA and a Degree Plan GPA of at least 3.0 with no grade lower than C in any course on the degree plan,
3. passed the preliminary examination (written and oral portions),
4. submitted an approved dissertation proposal,
5. met the residence requirements. The final examination will not be authorized for any doctoral student who has not been admitted to candidacy.

Languages
A student is required to possess a competent command of English. For English language proficiency requirements, see the Admissions section of this catalog. The doctoral (PhD) foreign language requirement at Texas A&M University is a departmental option, to be administered and monitored by the individual departments of academic instruction.

99-Hour Cap on Doctoral Degrees
In Texas, public colleges and universities are funded by the state according to the number of students enrolled. In accordance with legislation passed by the Texas Legislature, the number of hours for which state universities may receive subvention funding at the doctoral rate for any individual is limited to 99 hours. Texas A&M University and other universities will not receive subvention for hours in excess of the limit.

Institutions of higher education are allowed to charge the equivalent of nonresident tuition to a resident doctoral student who has enrolled in 100 or more semester credit hours of doctoral coursework.

A doctoral student at Texas A&M has seven years to complete his/her degree before being charged out-of-state tuition. A doctoral student who, after seven years of study, has accumulated 100 or more doctoral hours will be charged tuition at a rate equivalent to out-of-state tuition. Please note that the tuition increases will apply to Texas residents as well as students from other states and countries who currently are charged tuition at the resident rate. This includes those doctoral students who hold GAT, GANT, and GAR appointments of 20 or more hours and recipients of competitive fellowships who receive more than $1,000 per semester. Doctoral students who, after seven years of study, have not accumulated 100 hours are eligible to pay in-state tuition if otherwise eligible.

For count purposes, a year is counted as three semesters, normally fall, spring and summer. Using this system, a student is allowed 21 semesters as a G8 student to complete the doctoral degree before being penalized
with the higher tuition rate. Any semester in which a G8 student is enrolled for a doctoral level course is counted.

The following majors are exempt from the 99-Hour Cap on Doctoral Degrees:

- Biomedical Sciences
- Biochemistry
- Microbiology
- Genetics
- Toxicology
- Nutrition Sciences
- Community Clinical Psychology
- Counseling Psychology
- School Psychology
- Veterinary Pathology
- Clinical Psychology
- Counseling Psychology
- Medical Sciences
- Health Services Research
- Health Promotion and Community Health Sciences
- Epidemiology and Environmental Health

The hour limit for these majors is 130 doctoral hours.

**Application for Degree**

For information on applying for your degree, please visit the Graduation section.