Doctoral Checklist

Discuss coursework in consultation with your Program Area Adviser

- Bilingual/Bicultural Education..................................................................................Dr. Elaine Horwitz
- Cultural Studies in Education...............................................................................Dr. Noah De Lissovoy
- Early Childhood Education....................................................................................Dr. Jennifer Adair
- Learning Technologies............................................................................................Dr. Min Liu
- Language and Literacy Studies................................................................................Dr. Jo Worthy
- Physical Education Teacher Education...............................................................Dr. Louis Harrison
- Social Studies Education.........................................................................................Dr. Anthony Brown

Begin coursework

All students must meet the following requirements prior to graduating:

a) Maintain a minimum 3.0 (B) cumulative GPA
b) Take at least 18 hours of coursework in the major area (EDC courses)
c) Take at least 6 hours of out-of-department coursework
d) Take the core curriculum courses: Foundation and Research Sequence

* Note: All courses required for the Doctorate must be completed within a six-year period.

Additional course options:

a) You may take 20% of your coursework (2 courses) on a CREDIT/NO CREDIT basis. These will not factor into your GPA.
b) 50% of your course work must be taken at UT Austin
c) EDC 396V Independent Study constitutes less than 25% of your coursework
d) You may transfer a maximum of 6 graduate hours from another institution with approval from the Graduate Adviser, Graduate Studies Committee.

Schedule First-Year Review

For more information, see your program area’s “Program Area Review and Qualifying Exam Guide” on the Doctoral Program Forms & Documents page

Participate in research projects

Complete a preliminary copy of the Program of Work (POW)

The POW form for your program area can be found on the Doctoral Program Forms & Documents page

Schedule Mid-Program Review

For more information, see your program area’s “Program Area Review and Qualifying Exam Guide” on the Doctoral Program Forms & Documents page
Begin thinking about your dissertation
  a) Think about a possible dissertation topic.
  b) Decide which faculty you might want to serve on your qualifying exam and dissertation committees.
  c) Talk to faculty; solicit feedback and foster relationships.

Professional Development
  Consider attending, and possibly presenting, at annual meetings of professional associations and learned societies.

Schedule and take your Qualifying Exams
  For more information, see your program area's Program Area Review and Qualifying Exam Guide on the Doctoral Program Forms & Documents page

Apply for Doctoral Candidacy
  For more information, See the Doctoral Candidacy page

Defend dissertation proposal
  • Find a date/time when your committee members may attend
  • Schedule a room online
  • Return signed Approval of Dissertation Proposal form to Graduate Coordinator

Secure approval to conduct research with human subjects (if necessary)
  See the UT Human Subjects/IRB website to determine what forms are needed and to submit your proposal electronically

Conduct research, complete the dissertation and any remaining coursework

Prepare for graduation
  a) Review the graduation deadlines and submission information on the Graduate School (OGS) Deadlines & Submission Instructions page.
  b) File Doctoral Graduation Application Form with Graduate School at the beginning of semester you plan to finish.

Schedule Final OralExam/Dissertation Defense
  This process is explained in detail on the Form Submission via DocuSign page

Conduct Final Oral Defense
After the defense, your dissertation committee members will need to sign two different signature sheets:

• The Report of Final Oral/"Gold Sheet" (goldenrod)
  o Is sent to as a PDF to you and your supervisor
  o You or your chairperson should submit the form to the Graduate Coordinator after defense
  o The Graduate Coordinator will obtain the signature of the GSC Chair, and see that it is hand-carried to the Graduate School.

• Committee Certification of Approved Version/"Signature Page"

Upload dissertation and required paperwork by designated deadline.