

Harvard Divinity School
Th.D. Guidelines for Second Year Review

The main purpose of the Second Year Review is to consider and clarify the overall design and progress of a student's academic program. To this end, a student participating in the Second Year Review must prepare a 2-page statement of academic purpose, to be shared in advance with the faculty who will participate in the review. A copy of this statement should be submitted to the Th.D. Program Administrator with the "Intent to take Second Year Review Form."

A second purpose of the review is to assess the student's academic progress in general, but also in regard to the degree requirements, including foreign languages. A student participating in the Second Year Review must submit two major course papers to their reviewers two weeks in advance. One of these papers should be in the student's major field and the other in a different field or discipline.

A third purpose of the Second Year Review is to review the fields that the student is proposing to cover on the General Examinations.

The Second Year Review is to occur either in the third or at the latest, in the fourth semester of study. At the end of a student's second semester, the program administrator will write a letter to the student and the advisor reminding them of when the Second Year Review should take place.

The Second Year Review should, as needed, lead to any or some of the following recommendations: clarifying the timetable for completing any remaining requirements, specifying any further coursework to be taken, the addressing of any issues in advising, clarifying the fields and timetable for General Examinations. A written summary of all such recommendations should be sent to the student as soon as possible after the review, with a copy also sent to the program administrator.

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