

**Department of the History of Science
Science Center 371**

Ph.D Dissertation Information

Five months after passing the General Examination, generally in the fifth term, a candidate for the Doctorate is required to submit to the Department a dissertation proposal. This application must follow the departmental **Dissertation Proposal Guidelines**. The draft of the dissertation proposal should be discussed with the intended dissertation director at least one month prior to submitting it to the Director of Graduate Studies. The dissertation director is assigned by the faculty of the Department in consultation with the student. Names of faculty members ordinarily available for the direction of the doctoral dissertation are listed in the course catalogue under History of Science 300.

The Director of Graduate Studies appoints a three-member ad hoc committee to review the proposal prior to its consideration by the full Department faculty. Upon approval of the dissertation proposal and dissertation director, the faculty appoints the second and third readers of the dissertation. The dissertation director along with the second and third readers comprise the dissertation committee. Ordinarily the dissertation committee will have the opportunity to review the dissertation in its middle stage. In any case, the review must be completed no later than three months prior to the Department deadline for submission of the final unbound copy. The dissertation committee must return the full draft within six weeks after it has been received.

Final unbound copies of the dissertation are submitted to the members of the dissertation committee by the first Monday in April for a June degree, the first Tuesday in September for a November degree, and the first Monday in December for a March degree.

Once the dissertation is approved, the student submits three copies: one bound copy (printed double-sided) to the Department; one bound copy and one boxed copy to the Office of the Registrar. The copies to the Registrar must be accompanied by the original plus one photocopy of the signed **Dissertation Acceptance Certificate** (available from Department); the copy to the Department must be accompanied by a list of 5-6 key words for input into a data base.

The dissertation should be an original contribution to knowledge. It must conform to the Supplement to the GSAS Handbook entitled *The Form of the Doctoral Thesis* <<http://www.gsas.harvard.edu/academic/thesis.html>>.

Before the degree is granted, a candidate is expected to present a colloquium at a meeting of Department faculty and students assembled for that purpose.

Important Deadlines to Keep in Mind

	November Degree	March Degree	June Degree
Full draft due the committee	1st Tuesday in May	1st Monday in September	1st Monday in January
Full draft returned by dissertation committee	Within Six Weeks After Receiving It		
Final unbound copy due the dissertation committee	1st Tuesday in August	1st Monday in December	1st Monday in April
Comments/approval by committee	Within Four Weeks After Receiving Final Unbound Copy		
Bound and boxed copies due Registrar and Department	Consult the <i>GSAS Handbook</i>		
Degree Application due the Registrar	August 15	December 1	April 1