Progress to Degree: Years 1 to 6

First Year:

1. Familiarize yourself with all parts of this *Handbook* and the University's *Graduate Student Handbook*.
2. Take and pass three courses in fall, and three in spring. Make sure your GPA is 3.0 or higher.
3. Plan for taking a Directed Study in spring or the following fall, if you wish so, and honor the deadlines for submitting the paperwork.
4. Serve as Teaching Assistant in one course in fall and one in spring.
5. Work toward your first language exam.
6. Submit reports to the associate director on October 5 and May 5.
7. Secure your dissertation advisor, ideally at the beginning but no later than at the end of the second term.
8. Work on, submit, and discuss with your advisor your proto-proposal.
9. Start thinking about your second-year paper.
10. Develop and discuss with your advisor a research plan for the summer.
11. Attend Strassler Center events, engage in the Q&A sessions, and fulfill professional development requirements.
12. Schedule and pass the first-year review with your advisor before the end of the semester.
13. Apply, as is required, for external grants and fellowships, particularly those that support language study relevant to your dissertation project.

Second Year:

1. Familiarize yourself with updates of this *Handbook* and the University's *Graduate Student Handbook*
2. Take and pass three courses in fall, and three in spring. Make sure your GPA is 3.0 or higher.
3. Serve as Teaching Assistant in one course in fall and one in spring.
4. Plan for taking a Directed Study in spring if you wish so and honor the deadlines for submitting the paperwork.
5. Prepare your second language exam, if required.
6. Submit reports to the associate director on October 5 and May 5.
7. Work on, submit, and discuss with your advisor your pre-proposal.

8. Complete your second-year paper.
9. Discuss with your advisor, and secure, your dissertation committee.
10. Start working on the reading lists for your field exams, discuss them with your advisor, and secure the field exam committee.
11. Develop and discuss with your advisor a research plan for the summer.
12. Attend Strassler Center events, engage in the Q&A sessions, and fulfill professional development requirements.
13. Schedule and pass the second-year review with your advisor before the end of the semester.
14. Apply, as is required, for external grants and fellowships.

Third Year:

1. Familiarize yourself with updates of this *Handbook* and the University's *Graduate Student Handbook.*
2. Serve as Teaching Assistant in one course in fall and one in spring.
3. Submit reports to the associate director on October 5 and May 5.
4. Work toward your dissertation prospectus and your field exams; both will require most of your time and need careful planning.
5. Schedule both the field exams and the prospectus defense in conjunction with your dissertation advisor, the committee members, and the Center's department administrator and associate director.
6. Honor the deadline for submitting your dissertation prospectus.
7. After passing field exams and defending your prospectus, discuss with your advisor your research plans for the rest of this and the following year (four).
8. Attend Strassler Center events, engage in the Q&A sessions, and fulfill professional development requirements until you are ABD.
9. Apply, as is required, for external grants and fellowships, especially those for the summer and your fourth year.

Fourth Year:

1. Familiarize yourself with updates of this *Handbook* and the University's *Graduate Student Handbook.*
2. Spend the entire year on dissertation research. Refrain from overcommitting yourself with other activities.
3. Submit reports to the associate director on October 5 and May 5.
4. Apply, as is required, for external grants and fellowships to support research.

5. Maintain communication with your dissertation advisor according to a schedule set up with them.

Fifth Year:

1. Familiarize yourself with updates of this *Handbook* and the University's *Graduate Student Handbook.*
2. Spend the entire year on dissertation research and move quickly toward writing. Refrain from overcommitting yourself with other activities.
3. Submit reports to the associate director on October 5 and May 5.
4. Apply, as is required, for external grants and fellowships, especially those that support additional research and/or dissertation write-up.
5. Maintain communication with your dissertation advisor according to a schedule set up with them.
6. Once you close in on finishing the dissertation manuscript and have discussed drafts with your advisor and the other members of your dissertation committee, consider scheduling the defense and plan for submitting the dissertation.

Sixth Year and Beyond

1. Familiarize yourself with updates of this *Handbook* and the University's *Graduate Student Handbook.*
2. Use as much time as possible to finish writing your dissertation. Refrain from overcommitting yourself with other activities.
3. Apply, as required, for external grants and fellowships, especially those that support dissertation write-up.
4. Maintain communication with your dissertation advisor according to a schedule set up with them.
5. Once you close in on finishing the dissertation manuscript and have discussed drafts with your advisor and the other members of your dissertation committee, schedule the defense and plan for submitting the dissertation.