

## **History of Art & Architecture Department Graduate Assessment Plan MA and PhD Programs**

11/29/18

### **Learning Goals and Objectives**

Graduate programs in History of Art & Architecture constitute professional preparation for academia, museum work, and related fields that requires (1) conversant familiarity with the principal texts, methods, discussions and problems in a chosen field or fields of study within art and architectural history; (2) proficiency in at least one language beyond English, selected to facilitate advanced research and analysis in a chosen field or fields of study; (3) development of a comprehensive program of independent research and dissemination of that research as a means of establishing oneself as a part of a professional community.

The key benchmarks in this trajectory are (1) the successful completion of coursework; (2) proof of proficiency in language(s) relevant to a graduate student's area of research; (3) formal proposal of topic for the thesis/terminal project (for students in the MA program) or dissertation (for students in the PhD program); and (4) the successful completion of the thesis, dissertation, or terminal project.

In addition to the above benchmarks, doctoral students are expected to (1) submit a qualifying paper after completing graduate coursework; and (2) pass comprehensive written and oral exams in advance of submitting dissertation prospectus.

### **Assessment Methods**

The History of Art & Architecture department maintains records of student academic progress and benchmark completion by means of a Statement of Completion Worksheet (for students in the MA program) or PhD Study Plan Form (for students in the PhD program). Students update these forms each year and submit them to the Director of Graduate Studies for approval and tracking. In addition, all graduate students are expected to consult with their primary advisors about coursework in advance of each term, so that the advisors can track and assess progress toward academic objectives. As set forth in our Graduate Handbook, the Director of Graduate Studies and Department Coordinator review and archive the following: a. Statement of Completion Worksheet (for students in the MA program) or PhD Study Plan Form and progress report written by students (in the PhD program) b. notification of successful completion of language requirement c. thesis/project proposal and defense forms (for students in the MA program) and dissertation prospectus, approval and defense forms (for students in the PhD program) d. qualifying paper approval form (for PhD students) and e. exam approval form (for PhD students)

In addition, History of Art & Architecture faculty meet annually, as a Committee of the Whole, to review the academic progress of each graduate student in our department.

### **Assessment Processes**

The History of Art & Architecture department has recently concluded a review of our graduate programs, which has resulted in a number of changes, including revised timelines for successful completion of the programs, updated forms to demonstrate graduate student progress, and the requirement of annual reports to be submitted by PhD students. We will review our new protocols and benchmarks next spring, as the first PhD students in our revised program will advance to candidacy to assess how the revised program is working for our students and for our department, and will consider the matter again in four years, when members of the first cohort to have gone through the revised program will have defended or will be in the process of defending their dissertations and entering the job market.

### **Status, Outcomes and Results**

The Department Head meets regularly with the Director of Graduate Studies and Director of Undergraduate Studies to discuss program protocols and benchmarks. The Director of Graduate Studies meets regularly (at least annually) with the MA and PhD students to assess program progress and MA and PhD students are required to meet regularly (at least quarterly) with their major advisors to discuss their progress through the program and ensure learning objectives are being met.

### **Decisions, Plans and Recommendations**

The processes we have used this year appear to have worked well. We will have a better sense of what might be added or adapted as revisions to the graduate program are implemented. We plan to continue to incorporate structured reviews of our graduate program in annual faculty meetings.