

Master's Graduate Student Estimated Timelines

(For Full Time Students)

This document has been created to provide students with an estimated timeline of major milestones within the completion of their degree. This is an idealized plan that reflects a focused program of study.

Master's – First Year

Note: Prior to the first day of class, students must contact their Academic Supervisor, plan their program of study, and enroll in required courses.

Fall Semester

Research and Supervision

- In August or September, begin to develop a one-page research proposal that may be used for SSHRC application (due in October), and other funding opportunities
- Formulate ideas and short-list some topics for Thesis/Capping Project research and potential supervisors
- Look for opportunities to collaborate with faculty on research projects (as an RA or volunteer) Funding
- Apply for funding and grants (e.g., SSHRC in October): (http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/apply_e.asp)

Winter Semester

Coursework

- Continue working towards completing required coursework
- Consider writing papers for courses that could lead to a Thesis topic

Research and Supervision

- Collaborate with faculty on research projects
- By the end of this semester, select a Thesis/Capping Project topic and Thesis/Capping Project supervisor. Discuss which other faculty member might be involved (internal).
- In conjunction with your Supervisor, complete draft of your research proposal for submission for ethical review.

Funding

- Apply for General Awards (January): (<http://gradfile.fgsro.ualberta.ca/current/generalawards.html>)
- Apply for external funding (e.g., CIHR)

Spring/Summer Semester

Coursework

- Complete any remaining coursework

Research and Supervision

- Conduct the literature review for your Thesis/Capping Project topic, formulate research idea/question and design/methodology
- Discuss Thesis topic, proposal, and timelines with supervisor

Funding

- Apply for Special Awards (August)
(<http://www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/edpsychology/nav02.cfm?nav02=14249&nav01=13952>)
- Apply for external funding

Additional

- By the end of this year, commit to a professional or academic stream (or both – see Graduate Student Opportunities document). If professional stream, refer to CAP guidelines (<http://www.cap.ab.ca>)
- If planning to Charter with College of Alberta Psychologists, ensure that you meet all of the requirements (<http://www.cap.ab.ca>)

Master's – Second Year

Fall Semester

Coursework

- Complete required coursework

Research and Supervision

- Complete literature review, pending ethical approval begin collecting data
- Meet regularly with Supervisor to discuss progress
- Begin writing sections of Thesis or Project (e.g., Introduction, Methods)

Funding

- If planning to continue into the Doctoral Program, apply for SSHRC in October:
(http://www.sshrc.ca/web/apply/apply_e.asp)

Additional

- Continue to work towards professional or academic goals
- If applying to Ph.D. programs, make note of application deadlines (it can be as early as November)

Winter Semester

Coursework

- Complete any remaining coursework

Research and Supervision

- Should be actively engaged in, or nearing completion of, Thesis or Capping Project
- By the middle of March, the Thesis or Capping Project document should be ready to submit to supervisory committee
- Set defense date by March to defend your research in April if you plan to attend convocation in June.

Funding

- If planning to continue into the Doctoral Program, apply for General Awards (January):
(<http://gradfile.fgsro.ualberta.ca/current/generalawards.html>)
- Apply for Province of Alberta scholarship if you plan to go to doctoral program:
(<http://www.alis.gov.ab.ca/scholarships/info.asp?EK=39>)
- Apply for external funding (e.g., CIHR)

Additional

- Ensure all requirements for the Faculty of Graduate Studies and Research have been met, refer to Graduate Studies Calendar for deadline for submissions for unbound Theses and Completion Reports (Capping Projects)