Typical Academic Timeline

(Note: For students who enter the program with prior coursework such that a 4-year timeline is more appropriate, years 1 and 2 below should be combined.)

**Year 1**

**Fall**
- Begin core curriculum
- Curriculum Committee Meeting

**Winter**
- Core curriculum cont.
- Begin first part-time research rotation (winter or spring)
- Curriculum Committee Meeting

**Spring**
- Core curriculum cont.
- Begin first part-time research rotation (winter or spring)
- Curriculum Committee Meeting/choose full-time research rotation mentor for summer
- Begin reading articles for summer research rotation

**Summer**
- Prepare for Preliminary Exam
- Take Preliminary Exam 2nd week of July
- Summer research rotations
- Curriculum Committee Meeting to determine minor program of study

**Year 2**

**Fall**
- Continue coursework and determine minor program of study
- Begin formal research assistantship

**Winter**
- Coursework cont.
- Research assistantship cont.
- Curriculum Committee Meeting

**Spring**
- Coursework cont.
- Research assistantship cont.
- Curriculum Committee Meeting/discuss dissertation topic and advisor

**Summer**
- Research assistantship cont.

**Year 3**

**Fall**
- Select dissertation advisor and research topic
- Research assistantship cont.

**Winter**
- Establish dissertation committee and present preliminary ideas to the committee and/or informally at a session of the Faculty-Student Workshop
- Research assistantship cont.

**Spring**
- Dissertation proposal submission and presentation by June 30
- Research assistantship cont.
Summer ➢ Refine proposal as a function of feedback obtained from the committee and faculty, and obtain final approval (if necessary) before Fall Quarter
➢ Research assistantship cont.

Year 4
Fall ➢ Begin working on dissertation.
➢ Plan for at least two dissertation committee meetings throughout the year

Winter ➢ Dissertation cont.

Spring ➢ Dissertation cont.

Summer ➢ Dissertation cont.

Year 5
Fall ➢ Begin job search
➢ Plan for at least two dissertation committee meetings throughout the year

Winter ➢ Job search/interviews cont.

Spring ➢ Defend dissertation by 5th week of quarter
➢ Final dissertation due by 7th week of quarter
➢ Convocation