



Greek and Roman Studies Graduate Program Doctoral Candidacy Requirements

The University of Calgary Graduate Candidacy [Regulations](#) ("the Regulations") govern the conduct of admission to graduate candidacy at the University of Calgary. This document establishes program specific requirements associated with the conduct of admission to graduate candidacy under the Regulations.

A. Statement of Purpose

A student admitted into candidacy in the Greek and Roman Studies PhD program should have: (1) a demonstrated background in their particular fields of study or stream, namely Literature and Linguistics, History, or Material Culture; (2) a well-developed thesis proposal; and (3) the necessary skills and background preparation to successfully complete the proposed research.

B. Candidacy Components

All doctoral students in the Greek and Roman Studies Graduate Program must successfully complete the following components:

- All course requirements as indicated in the [Greek and Roman Studies program description](#) in the FGS Calendar
- Modern Language Examination(s)
- Core Reading List: Two Written Examinations
- Field of Study #1 (primary sources): Two Written Examinations
- Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Written Examination
- Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Oral Examination
- Written Thesis Proposal

Suggested Timeline

Greek and Roman Studies Ph.D. students should aim to complete their Candidacy Requirements according to the following timeline:

- Course requirements in the first two regular semesters in the program, i.e., by the end of April of their first academic year.
- Core Reading List Examinations by 18 months into the program.



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- Field of Study #1 (primary sources) Written Examinations, Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Written Examination, and Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Oral Examination between 18 and 22 months into the program
- Written Thesis Proposal by 24 months into the program.
- Modern Language Examination(s) by 28 months into the program (though it is strongly recommended that the student aim to complete these examinations as soon as they are ready).

The timeline is a suggested guideline only. It assumes admission into the program with an MA degree and first registration in September, and should be adjusted accordingly for students who enter the program in January.

According to FGS Regulations, subject to any extension allowances, PhD students must complete all candidacy requirements within 28 months of first registration.

C. Modern Language Examination(s)

Students should consult with Supervisors to determine the appropriate modern language requirements for their research areas. Reading knowledge of two modern languages are required at the PhD level. Waivers in the Modern Language Examination(s) may be obtained if the student: (a) has completed a previous examination at the MA level; (b) has four semesters of relevant coursework at the undergraduate or graduate level with a minimum grade of B in all courses taken; or (c) has native or near-native competency as determined by a faculty member in the program or delegate with expertise in the modern language.

C.1. Format and content of Modern Language Examination(s)

Each Modern Language Examination is a three-hour written exam, set by the Supervisor of the student. It will consist of a passage from a scholarly work (of c. 450-500 words) relevant to the student's research area which the student will have to translate into English. A dictionary is permitted.

C.2. Evaluation of Modern Language Examination(s)

The Supervisor and one other faculty member in the program with expertise in the modern language will grade the examination. The student should be able to translate the passage into good English to demonstrate that he/she has correctly understood the text overall. The grade is pass or fail.



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If the Supervisor and other faculty member are not able to come to an agreement on the outcome of the exam, the Supervisor will ask the Graduate Program Director (GPD) to enlist another faculty member to assess the examination. The majority decision will then be the accepted grade.

Up to two re-examinations of each language are permitted. Failure on a third attempt will require withdrawal from the program.

C.3. Appeal of Failed Modern Language Examination(s)

A student who fails has the right of appeal. In the first instance the student will appeal to the GPD who will assess the examination along with another faculty member. If the grade is still a fail, the student has the right to appeal to the appropriate officer in the Faculty of Graduate Studies (see the Graduate Calendar, *Academic Regulations—Appeals—Appeals Against Faculty of Graduate Studies Rulings*).

D. Core Reading List Examinations

Students in the Literature and Linguistics stream and in the History stream must prepare for this examination by translating 250 pages of Greek and Latin texts and reading another 250 pages in English translation. Students in the Material Culture stream must prepare for this examination by reading 250 pages of Greek and Latin texts in English translation, as well as studying a set list of visual images from a Core Visual Image List. Authors and works to be translated and/or read in translation, and/or visual images are chosen by the student in consultation with the Supervisor from the Core Reading List and the Core Visual Image List which are set by the department.

NOTE: The Material Culture Stream does not have a defined Latin and/or Greek language requirement because of the different core research skills needed for this stream. Visual literacy is uppermost in this stream, hence the set list of visual images reflecting various areas of material culture (e.g., archaeological sites, epigraphy, numismatics, art works, architecture, etc.).

D.1 Format and content of Core Reading List Examinations

These consist of 2 three-hour written examinations, set by the Supervisor together with the Supervisory Committee. There will be at least a day but no more than a week between the two exams. They will be written in the department by hand (unless the student has applied for special accommodation).

- a) If the student is in the Literature and Linguistics or History streams:



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(i) the first exam will consist of eight passages of c. 30 lines each (taken from the 250 pages of material read in the original Greek and Latin), of which the student is to translate four into English, (a dictionary is permitted),

(ii) the second exam will consist of eight passages of c. 30 lines each (taken from the 250 pages of material read in translation), of which the student is to write commentary on four.

b) If the student is in the Material Culture stream:

(i) the first exam will consist of six essay questions based on the material read in translation, of which the student is to answer three,.

(ii) the second exam will consist of eight visual images (taken from the Core Visual Image List) with questions attached, of which the student is to write commentary upon four (i.e., questions will consist of identification and explanation).

D.2. Evaluation of Core Reading List Examinations

The Supervisor along with the Supervisory Committee will grade the examinations. The student will be told the result of each examination within one week of writing it. Each examination is evaluated overall as a pass or fail.

In the Literature and Linguistics or History streams, for the first examination the student should be able to translate four passages into good English and the translation must show an ability to recognise and render accurately into English fundamental grammatical and syntactic constructions in the ancient languages. For the second examination, which requires written analysis, the student must demonstrate general knowledge of the author and work in question and important details about the passage concerning plot, character, theme, historical controversy, etc.

In the Material Culture stream, for the first examination the student must be able to address the essay questions directly, demonstrating general knowledge of the authors and works in question and be able to elaborate on whatever elements are asked (e.g. plot, character, theme, historical controversy, etc.). For the second examination, which requires written analysis of visual images, the student must be able to identify the images and show understanding of important details and controversies.

Though a unanimous recommendation is preferred for each examination, if the outcome of the final vote, at a meeting of the supervisory committee, includes no more than one negative vote, the student will pass.



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Up to two re-examinations of each examination are permitted. Failure on a third attempt will require withdrawal from the program.

D.3. Appeal of Core Reading List Examinations

A student who fails has the right of appeal. In the first instance the student will appeal to the GPD who will assess the examination along with another faculty member. If the grade is still a fail, the student has the right to appeal to the appropriate officer in the Faculty of Graduate Studies (see the Graduate Calendar, [Academic Regulations—Appeals—Appeals Against Faculty of Graduate Studies Rulings](#)).

E. Field of Study #1 (primary sources) Written Examinations

The reading requirements for this exam for the three streams are as follows:

a) Students in the Literature and Linguistics stream must prepare for this examination by translating 500 pages of Greek and Latin texts.

b) Students in the History stream must prepare for this examination by reading 250 pages of Greek and Latin texts and another 250 pages in English translation.

c) Students in the Material Culture stream must prepare for this examination by reading 250 pages of Greek and Latin texts in English translation, as well as studying a set list of, normally, 100 visual images.

Authors and works to be translated and/or read in translation, and/or visual images are chosen by the student in consultation with the Supervisor with a focus on the reading/knowledge required for the dissertation. There may be duplication of authors between the Core Reading List and the Field of Study #1 reading list, though specific works/passages may not be duplicated between the two lists. Nor in the Material Culture stream can there be any such duplication between the Core Visual Image List and the images chosen for the Field of Study #1 examination.

NOTE: Again, the difference in the three streams reflects the relative importance assigned to the centrality of knowledge of Latin and Greek to the Literary and Linguistic and History streams and the centrality of knowledge of visual images to the Material Culture stream.

E.1 Format and content of Field of Study #1 (primary sources) Examinations



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These consist of 2 three-hour written examinations, set by the Supervisor together with the Supervisory Committee. These will be at least a day but no more than a week between the two FoS #1 exams. They will be written in the department by hand (unless the student has applied for special accommodation).

a) If the student is in the Literature and Linguistics or History streams:

(i) the first exam will consist of eight passages of c. 30 lines each (taken from the 500 pages of material read in the original Greek and Latin in the Literature and Linguistics stream; or from the 250 pages of original Greek and Latin in the History stream, of which the student is to translate four into English, (a dictionary is permitted),

(ii) the second exam will consist of eight passages of c. 30 lines each (taken from the 500 pages of original Latin and Greek in the Literature and Linguistics stream; or from the 250 pages in English translation in the History stream), of which the student is to write commentary on four,).

b) If the student is in the Material Culture stream:

(i) the first exam will consist of six essay questions based on the material read in translation, of which the student is to answer three,

(ii) the second exam will consist of eight visual images (taken from the list of images chosen as above), of which the student is to write commentary upon four (i.e., the questions will consist of identification and explanation).

E.2. Evaluation of Field of Study #1 (primary sources) Examinations

The Supervisor along with the Supervisory Committee will grade the examinations. The student will be told the result of each examination within one week of writing it. Each examination is evaluated overall as a pass or fail.

In the Literature and Linguistics and History Streams, for the first examination the student should be able to translate four passages into good English, and the translation must show an ability to recognise and render accurately into English fundamental grammatical and syntactic constructions in the ancient languages. For the second examination, which requires written analysis, the student must demonstrate general knowledge of the author and work in question and important details about the passage concerning plot, character, theme, historical controversy, etc. The commentary here will be expected to be at a more detailed level than that required in the Core Reading List Examinations since the material here is more closely associated with the student's dissertation topic.



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In the Material Culture stream, for the first examination the student must be able to address the essay questions directly, demonstrating general knowledge of the authors and works in question and be able to elaborate on whatever elements are asked of them (e.g. plot, character, theme, historical controversy, etc.). For the second examination, which requires written analysis of visual images, the student must be able to identify the images and show understanding of important details and controversies. The commentary here will be expected to be at a more detailed level than that required in the Core Visual Image examination since the material here is more closely associated with the student's dissertation topic.

Though a unanimous recommendation is to be preferred, if the outcome of the final vote, at a meeting of the supervisory committee, includes no more than one negative vote, the student will pass.

A student who fails either of the Field of Study #1 (primary sources) Examinations will be allowed to re-take the failed examination after at least two months and within six months of the failed examination. A second failure of a Field of Study examination will result in a student being required to withdraw (see the Graduate Calendar, section [Academic Regulations—Candidacy—Candidacy Examination Outcomes](#)).

E.3. Appeal of Field of Study #1 (primary sources) Examinations

A student who fails has the right of appeal. In the first instance the student will appeal to the GPD who will assess the examination along with another faculty member. If the grade is still a fail, the student has the right to appeal to the appropriate officer in the Faculty of Graduate Studies (see the Graduate Calendar, [Academic Regulations—Appeals—Appeals Against Faculty of Graduate Studies Rulings](#)).

F. Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Written Examination

The reading requirements for this exam are a general bibliography comprised of approximately 75 items (including books, chapters, and articles) which is agreed upon by the student and supervisory committee; this list also functions as a preliminary bibliography for the thesis proposal.

F.1 Format and content of Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Examination

This is a take-home exam. The student will be given a list of 6 essay questions, based on the bibliography agreed upon above, and set by the supervisor and supervisory



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committee. The student then has two weeks to write two 3000-word essays on two of the set questions.

F.2. Evaluation of Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Examination

The Supervisor along with the Supervisory Committee will grade the examination. The student will be told the result of each examination within one week of writing it. The examination is evaluated overall as a pass or fail.

The essays should show knowledge of the scholarly debate in the dissertation field, critical reading skills, a familiarity with a range of approaches and methodologies within the research area, and an ability to independently and effectively express arguments in written form.

Though a unanimous recommendation is to be preferred, if the outcome of the final vote, at a meeting of the supervisory committee, includes no more than one negative vote, the student will pass.

A student who fails the Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Examination will be allowed to re-take the examination after at least two months and within six months of the failed examination. A second failure of this Field of Study examination will result in a student being required to withdraw (see the Graduate Calendar, section [Academic Regulations—Candidacy—Candidacy Examination Outcomes](#)).

F.3. Appeal of Field of Study #2 (secondary sources) Examination

A student who fails has the right of appeal to the appropriate officer in the Faculty of Graduate Studies (see the Graduate Calendar, [Academic Regulations—Appeals—Appeals Against Faculty of Graduate Studies Rulings](#)).

G. Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Oral Examination

Once the student has passed the Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Written Examination, the Graduate Program Director (GPD) will notify the Graduate Program Administrator (GPA) to set in motion the required paperwork to set up a formal oral exam.

G.1 Format and content of Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Oral Examination



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The Field of Study Oral Examination will last a maximum of two hours, not including deliberation.

The Examination will consist of rounds of questions by members of the Examination Committee. These questions will arise from the Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Written Examination.

The Examination Committee will comprise the supervisor, the other members of the supervisory committee and two other examiners, one internal to the program and the other external to the program. A Neutral Chair, appointed by the GPD, will oversee the examination.

G.2. Evaluation of Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Oral Examination

The oral examination is evaluated on a pass or fail basis. A straw vote will be conducted first and the Examination Committee will discuss the outcome.

A vote of pass on the oral examination indicates that in the view of the examination committee the student has demonstrated the ability in their oral responses to critically analyse the questions or topics under discussion, as well as provided well-reasoned oral responses that incorporate knowledge of the relevant Field of Study.

Should the outcome of the vote on the oral examination include two or more negative votes, the Committee's recommendation to the Graduate Program Director for the respective component will be "fail".

Note: In instance of a potential of a conflict of interest such as when the Graduate Program Director is a member of the examining committee, the Department Head or a designate will substitute for the Graduate Program Director.

A student who fails the Field of Study #2 (secondary scholarship) Oral Examination will be allowed to re-take the examination after at least two months and within six months of the failed examination. A second failure of this Field of Study Oral Examination will result in a student being required to withdraw (see the Graduate Calendar, section [Academic Regulations—Candidacy—Candidacy Examination Outcomes](#)).

G.3. Appeal of Field of Study #2 (secondary sources) Examination

A student who fails has the right of appeal to the appropriate officer in the Faculty of Graduate Studies (see the Graduate Calendar, [Academic Regulations—Appeals—Appeals Against Faculty of Graduate Studies Rulings](#)).



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H. Thesis Proposal Submission and Meeting

Doctoral students must complete a written Thesis Proposal, which is approved by their Supervisory Committee in a Thesis Proposal Meeting.

Normally students will be working on their Thesis Proposal in conjunction with their Field of Study Examinations so that once the Field of Study Examinations are successfully completed, they should be nearly ready to schedule their Thesis Proposal Meeting. This meeting should take place no earlier than two weeks and no later than two months after the completion of the other candidacy requirements.

H.1 Format and content of Thesis Proposal

The thesis proposal should be approximately 20 pages (c. 8000 words). It should set out the student's proposed research, locate it in the context of the relevant academic literature, explain its potential contribution to that literature and outline in detail the proposed methodology that will be used in the research.

H.2 Thesis Proposal Meeting and Evaluation of Thesis Proposal

The student will submit the Thesis Proposal to the Supervisory Committee one week before the time proposed for an informal Thesis Proposal meeting.

The primary purpose of this informal meeting is to provide the student with an opportunity to present and discuss their research plan, and for every member of the Supervisory Committee to have an opportunity to question the student on the Thesis Proposal and provide constructive feedback.

Approval of the Thesis Proposal component is achieved when the Supervisory Committee judges that the Thesis Proposal demonstrates that the project can be carried out by the student to the required standard in a reasonable time.

When evaluating the Thesis Proposal, the options available to the Supervisory Committee are "Approved without revision", "Approved with revisions", and "Not approved".

A second Thesis Proposal Meeting is required in the case of a verdict of "Not Approved". As per FGS requirement, the Thesis Proposal must be revised and resubmitted, and a second Thesis Proposal Meeting held within two to six months of receiving notification of the fail. Doctoral students may make two attempts to successfully complete the Thesis Proposal component, after two attempts they will be required to withdraw from the program.



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H.3 *Appeal of Thesis Proposal Evaluation*

A student who fails has the right of appeal to the appropriate officer in the Faculty of Graduate Studies (see the Graduate Calendar, [Academic Regulations—Appeals—Appeals Against Faculty of Graduate Studies Rulings](#)).