

COURSE & THESIS TIMELINE

if you plan to graduate in 2 years, you can expect...

COURSE WORK

THESIS WORK

FIRST YEAR, FALL

SUS 601 (3 CREDITS)
 SUS 603 (3 CREDITS)
 SUS 608 (1 CREDIT)
 ELECTIVE (3 CREDITS)

Your first semester, you will take 10 credits of coursework. Three of your courses (SUS courses) will be with members of your cohort, the remaining course is an elective that you chose.

ADVISOR ASSIGNMENT
 IDENTIFY RESEARCH QUESTION(S)
 CHOOSE THEORETICAL FRAME

In this first semester, you will be assigned an advisor who will help you choose classes, discuss your thesis research question, and connect you to faculty that might serve on your thesis committee. By the end of this semester, you should have a preliminary research question and theoretical frame (which you learn about and apply in SUS 601).

FIRST YEAR, SPRING

SUS 602 (3 CREDITS)
 SUS 604 (3 CREDITS)
 SUS 608 (1 CREDIT)
 ELECTIVE (3 CREDITS)

Your second semester has the same general structure as your first semester. For your elective, you may want to take a research methods class, especially if you intend to collect data over the summer; discuss with your advisor.

CHOOSE THESIS CHAIR
 DEVELOP PROSPECTUS
 CHOOSE COMMITTEE
 DEFEND PROSPECTUS

You will choose a chair for your thesis committee and meet with them throughout the semester. In SUS 604, and with your chair, you will develop your prospectus (thesis proposal), ideally defending it by the end of the semester. You will secure two additional members for your thesis committee to guide, support, and evaluate your thesis.

FIRST YEAR, SUMMER

NO REQUIRED COURSES

Occasionally students take a methods or elective class in the summer; most often, they rest, work, and begin working on their thesis.

APPLY FOR IRB APPROVAL
 COLLECT DATA / FIELDWORK
 READ & WRITE

Using the summer to prepare and submit your IRB application, recruit participants, collect data, and/or read and write for your thesis, can significantly help you meet your timeline goals.

SECOND YEAR, FALL

SUS 685 (3 CREDITS)
 SUS 699 (2 CREDITS)
 ELECTIVE (3 CREDITS)
 ELECTIVE (1 CREDIT)

Your coursework this semester is flexible. The courses above represent one common option; discuss alternative options with your advisor. SUS 685 is an independent study where you work with a faculty member to study a specific topic; many students use SUS 685 to read for and write their literature review or theoretical frame). SUS 699 is thesis credit.

APPLY FOR IRB APPROVAL
 RECRUIT PARTICIPANTS
 COLLECT DATA / FIELDWORK
 ANALYZE DATA

You will complete a significant amount of thesis work this semester. Exactly what you do depends upon the nature of your thesis, and whether you successfully completed the steps above. Schedule regular check-ins with your thesis chair to create and modify your timeline. Common steps for this semester include applying for IRB approval, recruiting participants, collecting data, and writing final drafts of your literature review, theoretical frame, or methodology.

SECOND YEAR, SPRING

SUS 695 (3 CREDITS)
 SUS 699 (6 CREDITS)

Unless you are completing a certificate program, you will likely only take one course the final semester, which is the SUS capstone (695). Your remaining credits will be dedicated to your thesis. SUS 695 runs the first 8-weeks of the semester.

ANALYZE DATA
 WRITE & REVISE THE THESIS
 FORMAT THE THESIS
 DEFEND THE THESIS

This final semester you will write, analyze, reflect upon, re-write, and format your thesis before you are ready to present and defend it to your committee and the public. Meet with your chair to ensure you know & meet Graduate College deadlines.

