



Hindu University of America

A Unique Dimension of Hindu Thought and Traditions

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DOCTORAL DEGREE GUIDELINE

All Doctoral Degree programs require successful completion of at least 63 credits of academic work – 33 credits of course work and 30 credits for a doctoral dissertation.

Academic credits breakup for Doctoral Degree is as follows

- University Core Courses – 9 or 12 credits
- Core Courses of the chosen discipline – 9 or 12 credits
- Elective Courses in the chosen discipline – 12 or 15 credits
- Doctoral dissertation – 30 credits

Credits earned for Master's courses at HUA or at other accredited institutions of higher learning may be counted towards Doctoral Degree requirements. The program offering a doctoral program will determine whether a student's credits from another institute will be counted towards the doctoral degree at HUA.

Regulations for Doctoral Research Program

1. After students have completed the university core courses and the core courses of the discipline, they will go through a Doctoral Qualifying Examination to be administered by the Program in which they are enrolled. Qualifying exam guidelines and committee are set by the individual department and approved by the academic affairs office of the University.
2. Students can register for doctoral dissertation credits only after they have completed the qualifying exam successfully. Three consecutive failures in the Qualifying Examination will disqualify the student for the doctoral study at HUA.
3. When students complete the Qualifying Examination, they will form a dissertation committee. The Doctoral Committee will consist of at least three faculty members, of which one will be the chair of the committee. The dissertation committee members must have PhD degrees. One of the members of the committee will be from HUA. Students will form their committee. The Doctoral Committee is responsible for supervising the progress and the direction of the student's dissertation till the completion of the doctoral program.
4. The student will have a dissertation proposal approved by the committee within six months of the passing of the Qualifying Examination.

5. A Comprehensive Doctoral Examination will be conducted by the members of the student's Doctoral Committee after the student completes all the university core courses and program core courses and developed a dissertation proposal in consultation with the doctoral committee. All recommendations made by the committee during the Comprehensive Examination will be addressed by the student in the doctoral research.

6. All students registered for Doctoral dissertation work need to submit a report every semester for the research work carried out by them. The student's doctoral committee will evaluate this report as Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory, and forward to the Academic Affairs Office for student's records. Students getting two consecutive "unsatisfactory" grades will be taken into account by the doctoral committee, which may decide to discontinue the student from doctoral study.

7. The minimum time period allowed to complete the doctoral research after the qualifying examination is 2 years. No student will be allowed to submit dissertation before that period.

7. The final examination will be conducted by the Doctoral Committee when the student has completed the research work to the satisfaction of the dissertation committee, led by the main advisor. The committee will decide the mode of the examination. As a result of this final examination, the Doctoral Committee may either approve the dissertation for award of the doctoral degree, or advise the student to carry out some additional research to be included in the dissertation. The final examination will be an open examination, announced to other students, faculty and the general public.

The dissertation must be an original work demonstrating the candidate's ability to do independent research in the selected area covering existing primary sources and other secondary literature relevant to the field of specialization.