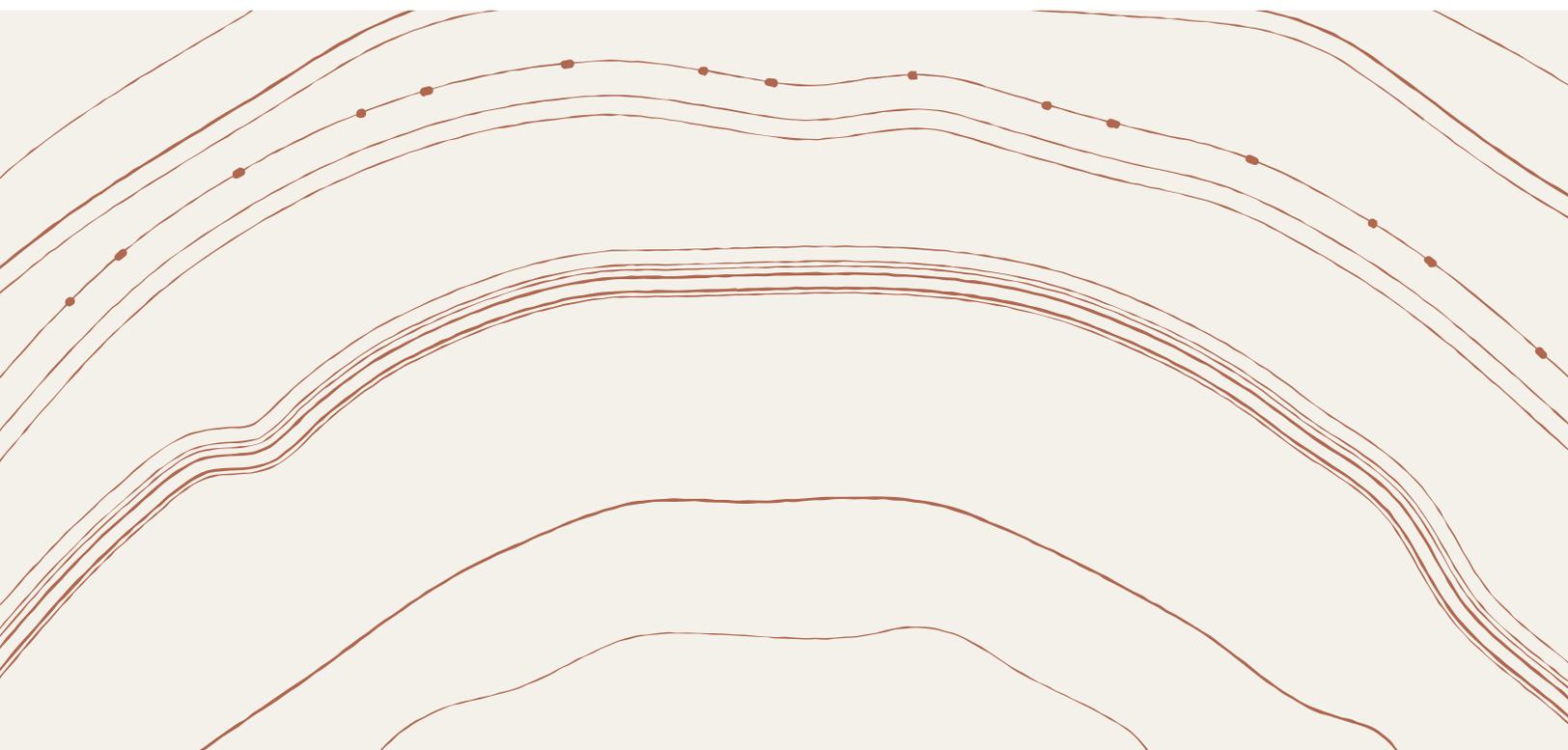


PhD in Communication Sciences and Disorders
Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders

Student Handbook 2021-2022



Updated May 2021

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Statement of Philosophy

The Ph.D. Program in Communication Sciences and Disorders (CSD) is designed to prepare students for careers in basic science and/or clinical-translational research. It is the program's objective to purvey a knowledge base that is sufficiently broad to contextualize each sub-discipline within CSD, yet sufficiently deep within a student's specialization area for them to contribute meaningfully to its scientific knowledge base. The Ph.D. program's primary objective is to prepare junior scientists to undertake successful careers in speech-language-hearing research. This success is predicated upon a strong foundation of theoretical models, empirical methods, an appreciation for the philosophy of science, competence within one's chosen specialty, and knowledge of the broader domain in which we work. It is our goal to train scholars who will make a strong impact in the field of speech, language, and hearing sciences.

Programs of Study

The Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders offers a program of study leading to the degree of Doctor of Philosophy. Prospective applicants are encouraged to contact faculty members within the department to explore areas of study. Programs of study are tailored to expertise of the individual faculty. The Ph.D. in CSD at Temple University is a research degree. Applicants who are interested in CSD but are not clinically licensed at the MA/MS level may be considered.

Admissions: How and When to Apply

Students apply through SOPHAS (<https://sophas.liaisoncas.com>). Prior to submitting a formal application, students must first seek out a potential research mentor. If the fit between the applicant and mentor is deemed strong and the mentor is in a position to accept doctoral students, the faculty mentor will advocate on behalf of the applicant throughout departmental admissions deliberations.

Minimum Requirements to be Considered for Admission:

- Bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited institution of higher learning. No student may pursue two doctoral degrees simultaneously (e.g., Speech and Biology).
- GPA of 3.5 (on a 4.0 scale) in previous graduate work (if applicable) and 3.25 in undergraduate work. Candidates not meeting these requirements may request special review of credentials by the Department.
- Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores exceeding the average range or scaled equivalent. Scores must be no more than five years old.
- Three letters of recommendation. We suggest that these letters be provided by persons capable of evaluating the applicant's academic and research potential (i.e., avoid generic character references). One of these letters must be from such persons as previous professor, graduate advisor, undergraduate advisor, or director of master's thesis.
- Transcripts -- two copies of an official transcript from every institution of higher learning the applicant has attended, including Temple.
- Foreign Students: TOEFL minimum scores of 79 iBT or 550 PBT.
- Writing sample. The applicant should submit one writing sample that is expository in nature (e.g., a class paper, a chapter of a senior or MA thesis, or a paper written for publication).
- A certificate of admission to the Graduate School is valid for a maximum of one

year from the first day of the semester in which the student was expected to enroll. A student who withdraws or whose program is terminated by the Graduate School must file a new application for admission, unless an appeal is registered within thirty days of the date of the termination letter.

- Application fee (non-refundable).

In addition to the above minimal set of application materials the applicant may also elect to:

- Submit a Master's thesis, published materials or other written examples of scholarly work.
- Have additional letters of recommendation sent, especially ones that discuss his or her research capability and capacity to work independently and responsibly.
- Meet for interviews with Graduate faculty members of the Department.

Applicants are typically considered for fall admission but under exceptional circumstances may also be considered for off-cycle matriculation (e.g., summer). The application deadline for fall is December 15 of the preceding calendar year. All application materials (e.g., GREs, letters of recommendation) must be received by this date for full consideration.

Applicants first identify a potential mentor who will work together with the student to develop an application. Applicants who apply 'cold' or who do not match with any relevant expertise are typically denied admission. When the admission packet is complete, the primary mentor will act as an advocate during the review of the application by all eligible graduate faculty members in the department. The advocate reviews the application, checks the applicant's references and credentials, and then prepares a statement outlining the student's strengths and weaknesses. This summary statement is circulated to all graduate faculty members of the Department. A decision on the applicant's admission will be made by a vote of the Graduate Faculty in CSD.

Prerequisites to Graduate Study in CSD

It is the expectation that incoming students will have a strong background of formal coursework in their respective specialty. Many incoming students will hold the MA/MS in

speech-language pathology. Standards of the American Speech and Hearing Association (ASHA) ensure that students with this degree have taken a wide range of prerequisite coursework. For students who come to CSD without a clinical MA/MS, the potential mentor will first evaluate transcripts in conjunction with the department chair. The candidate may be asked to complete any critical prerequisite coursework prior to matriculating in the doctoral program.

Duration of the Program

The Ph.D. is designed to be a full-time program consisting of 45 credits completed over four years with a maximum of seven years consistent with University policy. The actual duration of the program may vary depending on the student's prior background, as determined by the student's committee and Ph.D. program director. In some cases, graduate credit from outside programs may be counted toward the Ph.D.

Standards of Retention

A student is expected to maintain satisfactory progress toward a degree. A student's graduate record begins with the first course credited to a degree and includes all subsequent courses, whether or not such work is necessary for the degree.

Upon matriculation, a CSD Ph.D. student may receive no more than:

- 1) Two grades below B minus.
- 2) One failing grade (F)

Registrations may be repeated in the same graduate course if the subject matter varies and is clearly documented in the Graduate Bulletin.

A graduate student who fails a required course may repeat it once, but the F grade will be counted in calculating the student's GPA.

Standards of Graduation

Graduation is contingent upon attaining the following benchmarks:

- Complete all required examinations (e.g., preliminary exams) in conjunction with the dissertation committee.
- Exceed a 3.0 cumulative grade point average.
- No course grades of I (Incomplete) on the academic record at Temple.

Residency

The student must complete a minimum of nine graduate credits in each of two consecutive semesters, excluding summers.

Leaves of Absence and Extensions of Time

Students must be enrolled continuously during the period of graduate study. A leave of up to one year may be requested. An extension of the normal time allowed for completion of the degree may also be requested. Both the program and the Graduate School must approve these requests. Students on leave must pay an annual records maintenance fee.

The time period for completing a graduate degree program begins with the semester for which the student is admitted. It is expected that most students entering with Master's degrees will complete all requirements within 4 years from the date of admission. A student will not be permitted to continue doctoral study beyond seven years without the permission of the Department.

No course taken more than three years before the beginning of the student's admission semester may be counted toward the degree without approval. Graduate courses in which students are enrolled at the time they apply for admission may be counted toward the degree.

The Process of Doctoral Study

Students are required to follow Graduate School policies and should submit forms in advance of deadlines to allow time for processing.

<https://bulletin.temple.edu/graduate/graduate-policies>

Formation of the Student's Advisory Committee

Soon after the student has been admitted, the faculty mentor and the student will together select the student's Advisory Committee. The Advisory Committee consists of at least two members of the full-time graduate faculty and the department's current Ph.D. director. In certain cases, one of the two faculty members may be selected from outside the Department. The Committee will meet soon after the student matriculates (e.g. September) to establish a tentative program of study.

Determination of the Course of Study

The course of study is determined by negotiation and agreement between the student and his or her Advisory Committee. The student and the Advisory Committee meet on a regular basis (once per semester) to modify the program of study as needed. The guiding principle in determining the program of study is the previously stated philosophy of doctoral education and the requirements of study.

Formation of the Doctoral Advisory Committee

By the close of year 2, the applicant will have established a doctoral advisory committee, at which time the original student advisory committee will be dissolved. The primary function of the doctoral advisory committee will be to shepherd the student through the doctoral dissertation. The primary faculty mentor is expected to chair the doctoral advisory committee. The committee will be composed of 2 additional faculty members, at least 1 from inside the Department. A committee may be expanded to include other Temple faculty and/or qualified experts from outside Temple University, provided that a majority of the members of the advisory committee are Temple University Graduate Faculty. Qualified experts from outside Temple University must be approved by the Ph.D. program director. Students should make sure that they are in compliance with the regulations of the Graduate School.

Formation of the Doctoral Examination Committee

The formation of the Doctoral Examination Committee is as stated by the Graduate School Regulations.

A Dissertation Examining Committee is responsible for evaluating the quality of the dissertation and conducting the oral defense. A Dissertation Examining Committee must include the chair and all members of the Doctoral Advisory Committee and at least one outside examiner not previously involved with the dissertation writing or the Doctoral Advisory Committee.

The chair of the Dissertation Examining Committee must be a member of the Graduate Faculty but may not be the chair of the candidate's Doctoral Advisory Committee. This person, responsible for coordinating the defense, must be identified when the defense is posted with the Graduate School. If the dean of the school/college and the graduate council have a written policy that calls for the chair of the Dissertation Examining Committee to be elected only when the defense is convened, the person named in the posting to the Graduate School remains responsible for filing all official forms with the school/college and Graduate School.

The outside examiner may not be a faculty member in the candidate's degree program. The examiner must be doctorally prepared and, if s/he is from outside Temple University, must be approved by the Graduate School at least two weeks prior to the oral defense.

If the outside examiner or any other proposed member of the Dissertation Examining Committee is not a member of the Graduate Faculty, the chair of the Doctoral Advisory Committee must request approval by submitting the Nomination for Service on Doctoral Committee Form and a current curriculum vitae to the Graduate School at least four weeks in advance of the scheduled defense. Approval must be received prior to posting the oral defense.

Achieving Doctoral Candidacy

When the Ph.D. Committee determines that the student has (1) successfully completed the preliminary examination, (2) completed the residency requirement, (3) successfully completed the program of study and (4) chosen a topic for the dissertation, the student has achieved candidacy. At this stage, the student is considered a doctoral candidate.

Required Evaluations/Examinations and Timeline for Completion

Year 1 Evaluation

Doctoral students will present a first-year project at a public forum of faculty and students

at the beginning of the second year. Doctoral students will also submit a CV and the annual report of their progress by May 1 of the first year. The graduate faculty will evaluate the documents and quality of the first-year presentation. Doctoral students will then receive feedback (including a possible remediation plan) on their annual performance.

Year 2 Evaluation

Doctoral students will submit a CV and the annual report of their progress by May 1 of the second year. By this time, students are expected to have produced at least one first-authored publishable manuscript. The evaluation will consider publication and grant productivity in conjunction with all graduate faculty. Students who are supported by college or university fellowships are expected to also submit a doctoral dissertation training grant (e.g., NRSA, NSF) in conjunction with their faculty mentor no later than the end of Year 3.

Preliminary Examination

The preliminary examination will be undertaken once the student has completed all other requirements for advancement to Candidacy, but no later than the end of the third year of study. Specifically, students are expected to have produced at least two publishable first-authored manuscripts and completed all coursework. Students should have successfully presented the first-year project and second year evaluation.

The examination itself will include a written examination and an oral defense. The written examination will consist of 3-5 questions developed by the student's committee and approved by the program director and department chair. Students will have two weeks to complete the written examination. At least one question will address methodology and the other two will be on distinct, but related topics close to the student's area of research. Upon submission of the written examination, the student will orally defend the written responses in a meeting of graduate faculty. At a minimum, the student's committee, the program director, and department chair will be present.

The preliminary examination will prepare students to write a data-driven dissertation proposal (i.e., prospectus with literature review and proposed methodology). Once the student has successfully defended the preliminary examination and submitted an approved prospectus, the student has ascended to doctoral candidacy. The student must pass the preliminary examination in no more than two attempts. The Doctoral Advisory Committee evaluates the exam on a pass/fail basis. All judgments are by committee consensus.

Format of the Dissertation

The Ph.D. dissertation should represent a substantial contribution to the knowledge of the field based on original research. It should demonstrate to the satisfaction of the dissertation committee that the student is prepared to engage in meaningful research in a specialized area of the discipline. The regulations of the Graduate School (see <https://bulletin.temple.edu/graduate/graduate-policies>), with regard to format and deadlines, must be followed. Students are expected to complete the work they have proposed in the earlier prospectus unless otherwise agreed upon by the Department Ph.D. advisor, mentor, and Department Chair.

The recommended format for the dissertation involves a hypothesis driven introduction (expanded from the prospectus), two publishable articles formatted as chapters, and a general discussion section cohesively summarizing the results and theoretical implications. Formatted dissertations in CSD are rarely under 70 pages in length. The dissertation committee is tasked with assessing the quality and acceptability of the doctoral thesis. Revisions after the initial defense are commonly expected. In rare instances, students submit dissertations that are not passing quality. If the committee deems a dissertation unacceptable, the student may appeal to the Ph.D. program director and Department Chair.

Dissertation Defense

The dissertation defense is undertaken in both public and private forums. A public defense moderated by the chair of the committee will be announced and given by the candidate. The doctoral committee will administer a private defense. Successful defense of the dissertation most often involves revisions to the dissertation document itself. When the committee has agreed that the candidate has passed the dissertation, he/she must also seek approval from the Graduate Office. Assuming favorable action, the latter body then presents the student's record and dissertation to the Graduate Board, which, if it approves, recommends the award of the degree by the Board of Trustees of Temple University.

Course Requirements for the Ph.D. in CSD

Talk Series

During the first three years of study, Ph.D. students are expected to attend the CSD Proseminar, a public forum where MA students present case studies and faculty present new research. Proseminar will meet at least twice in the Fall and Spring semesters.

Students within the first three years are also expected to attend talk series organized by the College of Public Health and the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders that are appropriate for students in the CSD doctoral program. These will be announced by the program director.

Attendance is taken at talks and students are required to attend 80% or more across all talk series events. Scheduling conflicts should be brought to the attention of the program director.

Mentored Teaching Experiences

All Ph.D. students will engage in mentored teaching experiences and complete a teaching practicum. Such experiences can be in clinical (supervision) and/or academic areas. Mentored teaching may include taking responsibility for teaching a whole course, clinical block, providing a series of guest lectures/guest supervision in a course, teaching all or part of mini-seminars offered by the department. A formal mentor-student teacher relationship will be established for each teaching experience to ensure that the student gets the required guidance and feedback. Faculty will follow established guidelines for rating the Ph.D. students' mentored teaching experience(s) and for discussing the process, ratings and recommendations with the student. These evaluations will make use of both the peer evaluation and student evaluation processes.

Ph.D. Coursework

CSD Ph.D. students are required to complete 45 credits of academic coursework, including a series of core (required) courses, electives, and methods courses. Only courses with course numbers 5000 or higher will be accepted towards program requirements. Coursework organized by content area is as follows. A detailed course roster appears in Appendix A.

Core / Required Courses

- Doctoral seminars administered within CSD (6 credits)
- Psycholinguistics (3 credits)
- Philosophy of Science (3 credits)
- Current and Emerging Issues in Public Health and Health Professions (0 credits)

Doctoral Seminars (6 Credits)

The department will offer a yearly doctoral seminar as a topics course. Students are expected to complete two such seminars. When doctoral classes sizes are very small, focused topics courses may be arranged as approved by the advisor and Ph.D. program director.

Statistics and Research Methods (12 credits)

All doctoral students are required to complete basic statistics (e.g., ANOVA, linear regression) covered in Biostatistics (**EPBI 5002**). Students are further required to complete 6 additional credits of statistics and research methods as well as a grant writing course. Temple University offers statistics courses across numerous departments (e.g., Epidemiology and Biostatistics, Psychology). Each of the faculty mentors engages unique research, each with its own requisite statistical skillset. A sequence of relevant statistical coursework will be established in conjunction with the primary mentor and the CSD Ph.D. program director.

Electives (15 credits)

Students are required to complete 15 credits of elective courses. Prior approval of any elective course must be acquired from the student's primary faculty mentor and the CSD Ph.D. program director.

Preliminary Examination Preparation

Students are expected to complete this course prior to completing the preliminary examination.

Pre-Dissertation Research

Students are expected to complete this course prior to completing the prospectus.

Dissertation Research

The student must complete a dissertation to the satisfaction of the Dissertation Committee.

Administration of the Doctoral Program

The graduate faculty in conjunction with the Ph.D. program director within the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders establishes and maintains standards and requirements; establishes policies, procedures, and regulations; and decides on the admissions of students to the program.

The student's Advisory Committee is responsible for determining, in conjunction with the student, his or her course of study, the sequencing of courses, examinations, residency, and the scheduling of examinations. The Chair of the Advisory Committee is responsible for calling meetings of the Advisory Committee, for individual advisement of the student, for implementation of Graduate School and Departmental regulations and procedures, and for reporting on these events to the graduate faculty committee.

The Dissertation Committee is responsible for assisting the student in the development of a topic for the student's dissertation; for reviewing and passing final judgment on the student's prospectus; for advising the student on background, methodology, and design of the dissertation study; and for reviewing and advising the student on the dissertation while it is being prepared. The Chair of the Dissertation Committee has a particularly important role in the Ph.D. student's doctoral education. He or she works closely with the student as the primary mentor during the preparation of the prospectus, for readings leading to the design, execution, and interpretation of the dissertation research, for the execution of the project, and for the preparation of the dissertation. The Chair of the Dissertation Committee is also responsible for reporting to the departmental graduate faculty committee when the student has completed a satisfactory prospectus, periodically during the conduct of the dissertation study, and upon satisfactory completion of the Final Examination (Dissertation Defense). The Graduate Committee of the faculty oversees the doctoral program and the progress of each doctoral student.

The Chair of the Department is responsible for reporting to the Dean of the College of Public Health and the Dean of the Graduate School the names of those students who have successfully completed all requirements for the doctoral degree.

Conflict Resolution

Doctoral study is a lengthy and stressful endeavor. When conflicts arise, it is critical that students are treated fairly and have access to support. The first point of contact for any challenging issue is the student's primary faculty mentor. In the event that the student is in conflict with the primary mentor, he/she should establish a dialogue with the department's Ph.D. program director. In the event that the student is in conflict with both the program director and primary mentor, he/she should approach the department chair for arbitration. CSD has an anonymous faculty-student committee where any student is welcome to raise concerns about mistreatment. This is another potential resource in some cases.

Changing Faculty Mentors / Laboratories

When the working relationship between a student and mentor becomes untenable, it is sometimes necessary to shift advising responsibilities to another primary faculty member. This is an option not to be considered lightly. Formal attempts at mediating differences must be undertaken in conjunction with the department chair and department Ph.D. program director before any such possibility will be considered. The student should document and present evidence for their case to switch faculty mentors. Once the student has proposed a particular design for the prospectus, switching mentors becomes more difficult but in some extreme cases ultimately necessary.

Funding

Funding is limited and there is no guarantee of funding. At different times, different types and sources of funding may be available, and the Department and Ph.D. program director strive to provide available funding in a fair and equitable manner among all students. There is no guarantee that students will receive the same type of funding during their program, nor is there an assumption of progress or advancement through different types of funding. Students are expected to work towards obtaining their own funding through doctoral training grants and fellowships (e.g., NIH NRSA, NSF predoctoral awards). Details on the Collective Bargaining Unit can be found at www.tugsa.org.

Appendix A: Doctoral Program Course Requirements

See <https://bulletin.temple.edu/graduate/graduate-policies> for information on Temple University Graduate School Policies.

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

General Program Requirements:

Number of Credits Required for the Degree: 45

Required Courses:

Core Courses (12 credits)

CSCD 5411	Psycholinguistics	3
CSCD 5730	Topics in Speech, Language and Hearing (2 terms)	6
HRPR 5001	Current and Emerging Issues in Public Health & Health Professions	0
PHIL 5216	Philosophy of Science	3

Research and Statistics Courses (12 credits)¹

EPBI 5002	Biostatistics	3
EPBI 5201	Epidemiological Research Methods I	3
EPBI 8012	Multivariate Biostatistics	3
EPBI 8212	Grantsmanship in Health Research	3
HRPR 5999	Research Experience in Health Professions	0

Electives in Statistics and Methodology

Select two courses from the following:²

ABA 5305	Single Subject Research Design
EPBI 8201	Structural Equation Modeling
EPBI 8204	Multilevel Modeling in Int Res

Electives in Content Areas

Select three courses from the following:²

CSCD 8727	Written Language Development and Disorders
CSCD 8729	Neurocognitive Language Disorders
NMS 9627	Neuromotor Science 3: Cognition and Learning
HRPR 8985	Teaching in Higher Education: Health Professions
HRPR 8987	Teaching in Higher Education Practicum
PSY 8005	Affective Neuroscience
PSY 8310	Topical Seminar in Cognitive Psychology
PSY 8312	Core Course in Cognitive Psychology

PSY 8513 Cognitive Development

Non-Didactic Courses

CSCD 9994 Preliminary Examination Preparation

CSCD 9998 Pre-Dissertation Research³

CSCD 9999 Dissertation Research⁴

- 1 or otherwise approved by mentor, doctoral program director, and department chair
- 2 Alternate elective courses must be approved by the Ph.D. Program Director.
- 3 Students enrolled in **CSCD 9998** must take 1 credit each term until the dissertation proposal is approved and filed with the Graduate School.
- 4 Students enrolled in **CSCD 9999** must take a minimum of 1 credit each semester after approval of the proposal and be enrolled for at least 1 credit each term until the dissertation is defended and filed with the Graduate School.