PhD "At-a-Glance"
(Geophysics)

Requirements

1. Satisfy background ("deficiency") coursework requirements specified for you at admission by the Graduate Advisory Committee (GAC).
2. Complete 72 credit hours beyond the Bachelors Degree, approved by your committee, as follows
    a. Transfer up to 24 credits of individual graduate-level courses, or up to 36 credits for a thesis-based Masters Degree from another institution.
    b. Complete 24 research credits (GPGN706) under a CSM faculty advisor.
    c. Complete 12 credit hours in a minor program of study.
    d. Complete the following required courses:
        i. LICM515 Professional Oral Communication (1 credit)
        ii. GPGN681 Graduate Seminar (1 credit) (2)
    e. Complete two of the following three courses:
        i. SYGN501 The Art of Science (1 credit)
        ii. SYGN600 Fundamentals of College Teaching (2 credits)
        iii. LAIS601 Academic Publishing (2 or 3 credits)
    f. Count no more than 9 hours at 400-level for grad credit
3. Achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0
4. Propose, complete and defend a Doctoral Research Qualifying Project within your first 18 months at CSM. (3)
5. Write and defend a PhD thesis proposal before the start of your third year at CSM. (3)
6. Complete foreign language requirement (if English is your first language): one year of college-level, or two years of high-school-level courses in a single foreign language.
7. Participate in a practical teaching experience.
8. Apply for Admission to Candidacy and reduced "thesis-only" tuition.
9. Research, write and defend a PhD thesis on original work that results in new knowledge and/or techniques. (4)

Notes

1. Typical completion time for a PhD in Geophysics is 8 semesters.
2. PhD students enroll in GPGN681 only their first semester at CSM, but attend Heiland Lecture every week until graduation. A GPGN681 grade is awarded after students give a presentation of their thesis research. Credit is awarded in the semester the student graduates.
3. Students admitted to the PhD program in Geophysics become qualified for candidacy after they complete a two-step process consisting of a research project and a PhD thesis proposal.
4. Submit final draft of thesis to committee and Dept. Head at least 3 weeks before defense.

PhD "At-a-Glance"
(Geophysics)

Recommended Timeline for Success [1]

What	By When
Meet with interim advisor re deficiency courses and registration	Upon arrival at CSM
Make formal appointment of advisor & committee [2] Obtain committee approval of planned coursework	mid 1st semester
Choose qualifying project & supervisor	Dec 1, 1st semester
Present proposal for qualifying project	Jan 31, 2nd semester
Begin research for qualifying project	mid 2nd semester
Choose thesis topic	May 1, 2nd semester
Begin background research for thesis	mid 3rd semester
Defend qualifying project	End 3rd semester
Complete prereq. & core curriculum requirements Defend thesis proposal Submit application for candidacy	End 4th semester [3]
Complete coursework, register for thesis-only reduced tuition	ASAP [4]
Begin writing thesis	mid 6th semester
Finish thesis research	7th semester
Submit final thesis draft to committee & schedule defense	$\geq$ 3 weeks before defense
Defend thesis	mid 8th semester
Submit application for graduation to Grad Office	Grad. Office deadline
Complete thesis revisions and check out	$\leq$ 45 days after defense [3]
GRADUATE !!	End 8th semester
Attend Geophysics graduation party in your honor	Noon, Graduation Day

Notes:

1. Timeline is based on student beginning in Fall semester.
2. CSM deadline for committee appointment is end 4th semester.
3. Firm CSM deadline.
4. PhD students register for reduced tuition after completing 72 hours of course and research credit and submitting Admission to Candidacy form.