TIMELINE

1. October 9, 2009: Select a preliminary dissertation advisor and report your selection to via email to Patrick.

2. October-November: Meet regularly with your preliminary dissertation advisor to discuss research topics suitable for presentation at the Oral Qualifying Exam.

3. December 1: Select and commit to the research topic you will prepare for the Oral Qualifying Exam in consultation with your Preliminary Dissertation Advisor.

4. January: Begin meeting regularly with your Preliminary Dissertation Advisor to discuss progress on your oral exam prospectus.

5. March: In consultation with your Preliminary Dissertation Advisor select and begin consulting with your Oral Committee Chair and members regarding your oral exam prospectus.

6. March 15: Email to Patrick a preliminary title and a one page preliminary description of the research question, its economic motivation, the proposed methodology and datasets, if any.

7. April: Schedule your oral exam for some date on or prior to Wednesday, June 30, 2010. Dates in May are preferable than dates in June. The probability that all the members of your Oral Committee are available drops significantly after May 15th.

8. May-June or as soon as your oral exam date is known: Submit the application for oral qualifying exam to the Economics Graduate Office at 541 Evans Hall at least 3 weeks prior to the date of your exam.
ORAL EXAM

- Oral exam is necessary before being advanced to candidacy for the doctoral degree.
- Qualifying Examination Committee appointed for the oral exam of each student.
- Students who have fulfilled the coursework and field requirement must take the Qualifying Examination by June 30th of their third year in the program.
- Submit a prospectus of research achieved in their third year (3rd year Research Prospectus) to the faculty member that has agreed to serve as their dissertation advisor. Takes the form of a dissertation proposal. Responsibility to approve the 3rd year Research Prospectus lies with dissertation advisor. An acceptable 3rd year Research Prospectus should indicate potential ability to conduct research acceptable for a dissertation and need not indicate early achievement of an actual thesis.
- The general outline of the 3rd year Research Prospectus contains several components: literature review, motivation (may contain summary of policy implications of research), description of similarities and contrasts. Frequently, description of the data sources and the general data analysis methods of empirical projects, expected results, strategies, tools and sources.
- Successful orals in third year leads to Dean’s Normative Time Fellowship for fourth year.
- After failure, new exam can take place, usually less than 3-6 months later.
- Not presenting orals is breach of department rules.