

Psychological Sciences (PSYS)

Advancement to Candidacy for Ph.D.

1

Complete Coursework & Program Requirements

- Complete required core and elective courses (36 units for M.A.; ~60 units total toward Ph.D.; GPA \geq 3.0).

2

Fulfill Special Requirements

- Serve as a TA for at last 2 semesters
- Complete and defend Pre-Candidacy Thesis (PCT) by the end of Year 2 (no later than beginning of Year 3).

3

Qualifying Examination (QE)

- Complete Written Candidacy Exam and Oral Qualifying Exam before the beginning of Year 4.
- Submit Application for Qualifying Exam (AQE) at least 30 days before exam directly to Graduate Division (gradservices@ucmerced.edu) with your SSHA Graduate Services Coordinator CC'ed.
- Submit Qualifying Exam Report (QER) promptly after exam directly to Graduate Division (gradservices@ucmerced.edu) with your SSHA Graduate Services Coordinator CC'ed regardless of examination results.

4

Master's Along the Way (MAW) (Optional)

- Elect to receive an M. A. en route.
- Submit Mater's Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) webform.
- After approval and officially processed by Graduate Division and Office of the Registrar, file Graduation Application and complete Graduate Division requirements: [Graduate Division - Graduation](#).
- M.A. requires either a thesis defense or a comprehensive exam.

5

Dissertation Proposal & Advancement to Candidacy (Ph.D.)

- Establish Doctoral Committee.
- Submit Ph.D. Advancement to Candidacy (ATC) webform.
- Submit Dissertation Proposal (DP) to DC (timing may vary by emphasis area).
- ATC finalized after committee and Graduate Dean approval.

