

## A SAMPLE TIMELINE FOR COMPLETING A DISSERTATION\*

### During Course Work

	Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 3	Semester 4
Become acquainted with library and librarian	X			
Become acquainted with issues and literature in the field	X	X	X	X
Search for dissertation topic		X	X	X
Search for dissertation director			X	X
Choose a topic			X	X
Choose a director				X
Choose other committee members				X

### Proposal Development (semester 5, by week)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Develop a topic	X	X	X	X	X	X										
Consider grant or loan application if necessary		X	X	X	X											
Begin meeting with director to discuss proposal			X	X	X	X										
Find out requirements for proposal submission				X	X	X										
Outline proposal					X	X	X									
Complete detailed review of literature; construct theoretical framework; write review of literature chapter						X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X			
Decide on methodology; write method chapter												X	X	X		
Give proposal to committee														X	X	X

### Proposal Defense and Conducting Research (semester 6, by week)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
File paperwork and schedule defense	X															
Arrange permission, community contracts, and other preliminaries	X	X	X													
Defend proposal		X	X	X	X											
Revise proposal if necessary				X	X	X										

Meet with director to draw up schedule for research				X	X												
Conduct research for study					X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
Analyze data from research															X	X	X

### Writing and Defending the Dissertation (semester 7, by week)

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Outline dissertation	X															
Meet with director to discuss outline and preliminary data analysis	X	X	X													
Update proposal chapters for dissertation		X	X	X	X	X										
Write results chapter			X	X	X	X	X	X	X							
Write summary and conclusions chapter						X	X	X	X	X	X					
Find out requirements for submission and scheduling of final oral defense								X	X	X	X					
Polish writing; consult with editor if necessary										X	X	X	X			
Submit draft of dissertation to committee												X	X			
Submit dissertation paperwork and schedule for oral defense												X	X	X		
Have dissertation professionally typed or printed from word processor											X	X	X	X		
Defend dissertation													X	X	X	
Make minor revisions, if necessary														X	X	
Graduate																X

\*Long, Thomas, John Convey and Adele Chwalek, *Completing Dissertations in the Behavioral Sciences and Education* (San Francisco: Jossey Bass Publishers, 1985), 171 - 175.