

Sample timelines for Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship applications

Below are three different formats for timelines that have been used by successful applicants to the Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship (DCF) program.

Applicants *are not required* to use one of these formats. Samples are provided to help demonstrate the variety of ways applicants make clear to reviewers how much work is complete already and the expected schedule for work from the application deadline in October 2018 through the 2019-20 fellowship year. While chapter titles have been removed from the samples below, you should include provisional titles, if you have them. Please note that timelines cannot exceed one page in length.

Do not take the progression of work—the work already complete, timing of submitting chapters, duration of revisions, etc.—as indicative of an ideal timeline for completion. Timelines vary substantially by field and by individual project; the requirements are simply that applicants (a) have obtained ABD status by the application deadline, (b) submit a completed chapter with the application, and (c) are prepared to complete their dissertations within tenure of the award and no later than August 31, 2020.

Sample timeline #1

Dissertation completion timeline

I anticipate that there will be seven chapters, plus an introduction, conclusion, and appendices. Chapter three has been revised already after comments from members of the committee, and an excerpt of that chapter is provided with the application.

Much of chapters two and six exist in draft form. Chapter two needs only some minor rewriting, but after receiving feedback I've decided that chapter six requires more substantive revisions.

Fieldwork also is complete, though the transcription and coding of fieldnotes is ongoing with each chapter.

Writing deadlines

Already completed	Chapter 3
December 2018	Chapter 2 (<i>partially drafted, based on conference paper this spring</i>)
March 2019	Chapter 4
May 2019	Chapter 5
July 2019	Chapter 6 (<i>partially drafted, for upcoming presentation</i>)
September 2019	Chapter 1
December 2019	Chapter 7
January 2020	Introduction, conclusion, and appendices

Revisions

February 2020	Revise chapters 1-4
March 2020	Revise chapters 5-7
April 2020	Revise introduction, conclusion; finalize formatting

Submission

May 2020	Submit complete draft to department
July 2020	Defend dissertation

Sample timeline #2

Timeline for completion of degree

The dissertation will consist of five substantive chapters, as well as an introduction and conclusion.		
<i>Status at the time of application (Oct. 2018)</i>		
Drafted and revised	Chapter three	Submitted with this application
Partially drafted	Chapter two	
<i>Oct. 2018 through the fellowship year (2019-20)</i>		
Schedule	Task	Notes
Now-Dec 2018	Finish chapter two	I will be presenting a paper from this chapter at XXX annual meeting, Jan. 2019
Jan-March 2019	Write chapter one and revise chap. two	I will be presenting a paper from this chapter at XXX conference in April 2019
Apr-June 2019	Write chapter four and revise chap. one	
July-August 2019	Research trip	Look at additional sources for chapter five
Sept-Dec 2019	Write chapter five and revise chap. four	
Jan-March 2020	Write introduction and conclusion; revise chap. five	
April 2020	Final revisions and submit to committee	
May 2020	Defend dissertation	

Sample timeline #3

Timeline

- Chapter 2 is complete, chapter 1 is partially drafted, and chapter 4 exists as an outline.
- Almost all research for the dissertation has been completed, except some follow-up research in XXX archives for chapter 4.
- I have arranged to complete this research in Spring 2019.

Introduction and coda: To be drafted over Winter 2020

Chapter 1: To be finished in Fall 2018

- To be presented at XXX conference in Spring 2019

Chapter 2: Completed Summer 2018

- 25-page excerpt included with application
- Presented at workshop in XXX in September 2018

Chapter 3: To be drafted Spring 2019

Chapter 4: To be drafted Fall 2019

Final revisions: Winter-Spring 2020

Finish dissertation by April 2020 (no defense required for graduation)