

University of Kansas

Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies *GRADUATE PROGRAM HANDBOOK*



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This manual provides information concerning the graduate program of the Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies. It refers to Graduate Studies guidelines, but does not summarize

all regulations applicable to graduate students at the University of Kansas. Please refer as well to the [Graduate Studies section of the KU Academic Catalog](#) for official information and requirements.

SLAVIC GRADUATE PROGRAM

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APPLICATION TO GRADUATE STUDIES IN SLAVIC

Applicants to our program should complete the KU [Application for Graduate Study](#) and required supplemental documents online.

Prerequisites

In addition to the general [admission requirements](#) from the KU Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs, applicants should complete the equivalent of 30 credit hours in Slavic language and literature/culture at the college level, 10-12 credits must be completed at the junior-senior level (or be able to test out at that level).

For students who lack prerequisites, but have studied in appropriate fields and/or gained appropriate in-country experience with language skills may consider applying to KU Graduate Studies and the Department as a non-degree seeking student in order to make up any gaps in prerequisite work. After meeting the prerequisites with a 3.0 GPA or better, such students may then apply for admission to Slavic graduate degree programs.

Required Supplemental Documents

The following documents should be prepared in advance and uploaded with the online application:

- Application form, submitted on-line through the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs
- A letter of intent
- Current Curriculum Vitae or Résumé
- A short biographical essay in the intended language of study
- Three letters of recommendation. (Letters are submitted online. Enter letter writers' information in on-line application.);
- Official transcript(s) of all previous academic work (both undergraduate and graduate). Transcripts in languages other than English must be translated into English by an accredited translation service;
- Optional: Results of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) **for domestic applicants only**.

English Language Proficiency Requirement

Applicants who indicate that English is not their first language are required to provide proof of English proficiency. The following are acceptable means for verifying English proficiency for purposes of admission at KU:

- Graduation with a baccalaureate degree (or higher) earned in residence from an accredited English- medium U.S. college or university, or from a College or Institution in the United Kingdom, Australia, New Zealand, Ireland, English-Speaking provinces of Canada, or an English-speaking Caribbean country, with instruction conducted in English. This does not apply to degrees earned online.
- Receipt of an official copy (not student's copy) of applicant's proficiency scores (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS) achieved not more than two years prior to the first semester of enrollment. See [English Proficiency Requirements](#) in the University Policy and Degree Requirements section for more information.

For further information regarding the program or the application process, please contact Aley Pennington, Graduate Program Coordinator, aleypennington@ku.edu, 785-864-1528.

All supporting documentation for the application should be uploaded to the online application, with the exception of official test scores (GRE, TOEFL, etc.) and official transcripts, which should be sent directly from the institution to:

Graduate Admissions
University of Kansas
1502 Iowa St.
Lawrence KS 66045

Or

If your institution offers a secure electronic transcript delivery service (such as Parchment or National Student Clearinghouse), you may have transcripts sent to graduateadm@ku.edu.

TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS

Appointments and Stipend

The standard half-time (50% FTE) appointment entails 20 hours of teaching duties per week over the nine-month academic year. Stipends for the academic year 2025-2026 started at \$20,084.01. Those holding a .50 FTE assistantship benefit from a 100% remission of tuition and payment by the department of up to 3 hours of student fees and 100% of the wellness fee for GTAs enrolled in at least 3 hours. Preference will be given to continuing students and applications completed by 2 February.

M.A. students are eligible for a maximum of six semesters of GTA funding support, **pending availability**, providing both academic work and teaching are satisfactory. (M.A. students should complete a minimum of 15 credits per academic year.)

Ph.D. students are eligible for a maximum of ten semesters of GTA funding support, **pending availability**, providing academic coursework, teaching, and dissertation progress are satisfactory.

M.A. students who continue into Ph.D. study with the department are eligible for a maximum of twelve semesters of GTA funding support, **pending availability**, providing academic work and teaching are satisfactory.

All offers of financial assistance are contingent on approval by the College and the University, and on the availability of funds from the state. The [Memorandum of Agreement](#) made between the University of Kansas and the Board of Regents with the Kansas Association of Public Employees (representing the Graduate Teaching Assistants) limits the duration of the GTA contract to a **total of 16 semesters (M.A. and Ph.D. combined)**. Students who do both the M.A. and Ph.D. should be particularly aware of this limitation in Teaching Assistantship funding.

Summer GTAships are available on a competitive basis and do not count toward eligibility limits.

Graduate Teaching Assistant Qualifications

In evaluating the qualifications of a candidate for a Teaching Assistantship, the Department considers both the quality of academic work and evidence of linguistic facility. For Slavic language courses, applicants who have studied in a Slavic language-speaking country or in summer schools that require exclusive use of the language will normally receive preference.

International GTA candidates must demonstrate English proficiency per the Kansas Board of Regents policy by providing [English proficiency](#) scores that meet Regular Admission status and Speaking scores that meet the English Proficiency Employment benchmark.

Resources for GTAs

[GTA Memorandum of Agreement](#)

[Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs information on mandatory training](#)

[Full list of GTA/GRA Benefits](#)

[GTA/GRA Health Insurance Information](#)

[HR/Pay System for viewing paychecks](#)

GENERAL DEPARTMENT POLICIES & PROCESSES

Annual Graduate Student Review

Each spring, graduate students may be asked to submit their self-evaluation form to the director of graduate studies. Subsequently, the graduate faculty of the department will meet to discuss the progress of each individual student. Following this meeting, students will receive annual written evaluations from the department. These letters at times involve action items or suggestions for improvement or development from the graduate faculty in the Slavic graduate program as a whole. Students need to consider the feedback in these letters carefully as they reflect how their performance is being perceived in the department. Improvements should be made as necessary. You are welcome to discuss the annual evaluation with the DGS or your advisor.

Graduate Advising Policy

- 1) During their first year of the MA, students are advised by the DGS.
- 2) After the first year, students choose a faculty advisor in either literature, linguistics or language pedagogy (SLS) depending on their specialization.
- 3) Given the differences between the disciplines and knowledge of the field and market, linguistics students study with linguistics faculty, and literature/culture students work with literature/culture faculty. If there is a situation where a student changes disciplines, or a student in one discipline asks a faculty from the other discipline to be their advisor, the student needs to petition the department.
- 4) The department faculty will be informed about student advisors by the DGS as soon as this information has become available. In order to avoid confusion, faculty are required to inform the DGS upon concluding a mentoring agreement with a graduate student beyond the first year.
- 5) Students may consult with all faculty but should keep their primary mentor informed of their research and service projects with other faculty.
- 6) Advising dissertations consumes inordinate amounts of time from faculty. This means that there are only so many students we can accommodate given our research and service responsibilities. Any given graduate faculty member (tenured and tenure-track) in SGES can advise up to 3 student dissertations (co-chaired dissertations, or students past their 7th year of study, count as a .5 advisee).

[Appendix A – Graduate Student Annual Assessment Template](#)

Policy on Change of Advisors

Graduate advisees may change faculty advisors due to various circumstances, including but not limited to: the advisor leaving KU or retiring; the student's research diverging substantially from the area of expertise of the advisor; or differences between the student and the advisor. Change of advisor is allowed even at a late stage of a student's graduate career.

Either the faculty advisor or the graduate advisee may initiate the process of changing advisors by making the situation known to the Director of Graduate Studies in the Slavic department. The graduate advisee is free to initiate the process independently of their faculty advisor. If the Director of Graduate Studies is the advisor of record, the student shall contact the Chair of Slavic or the Slavic department's COGA advisor, who will work to initiate the change process.

The Change Process:

1. Depending on the nature of the concerns, the Director of Graduate Studies might call for separate meetings to discuss the situation with the graduate student and with the faculty advisor.
2. The Director of Graduate Studies and the graduate student concerned will work together to identify an alternative faculty advisor. Depending on the circumstances, it may be appropriate for the current advisor and another graduate faculty member of the Slavic Department to serve as co-advisors, or for a graduate faculty member from a different department to serve as advisor or co-advisor. If all attempts to find or agree upon an alternative advisor or co-advisors fail, the department is permitted to dismiss the student from the program.
3. The student shall discuss and arrange a timeframe for completing any remaining work that had been planned with the current advisor before the change takes place. If the student wishes to continue a project that was initiated with the original advisor, details of transferring the project should be worked out in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, who can mediate the process.
4. Students are required to obtain signatures from the new advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies on the "change of committee" form when changing advisors and/or committee members. This may be accomplished with the COGA advisor assigned to the Slavic department.
5. The student must still meet all relevant degree requirements of the University, the College, and the Department. In the event that the change of advisor occurs late in the student's graduate career, the student and the new advisor may request a modification of departmental requirements.

KU provides resources for issues of this nature, should they be needed, through the [Ombuds Office](#). Other extra-departmental resources include the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs, the COGA advisor, and Human Resources, who can assist in an objective analysis of the costs/benefits of changing advisors.

Petitions

If a graduate student has compelling reason to seek exemption from program requirement or University policy, they may submit a petition to the graduate faculty.

Petitioners should write a letter, addressed to the graduate faculty, explaining the reasons why the student is seeking exemption from specific rules, as well as how the educational goals will still be fulfilled. Where applicable, this petition should be accompanied by a letter of support from the student's advisor and/or the appropriate supporting materials. The letter should be sent to the Director of Graduate Studies (DGS), then depending on the nature of the petition, the DGS may rule on the petition, or refer the petition to the graduate faculty, which will convene to consider the petition.

When the policy or requirement being petitioned is a departmental requirement (for example, a course requirement for degree), the graduate faculty will issue a final decision (for example, that the student may be exempt from a Ph.D. course requirement based on coursework taken at the M.A. level at a previous institution).

In cases where the policy or requirement being petitioned is a University policy, the graduate faculty will decide simply whether to support the student's petition. If the faculty are in support, the department will submit a petition form to the College Office of Graduate Affairs (COGA) accompanied by a letter of endorsement from the DGS and a letter of support from the student's dissertation advisor, if applicable. The petition form specifies the supporting material needed for each kind of petition (e.g. leave of absence, extension of time to degree, waiver of the continuous enrollment for post-comprehensive students, waiver of rules specifying time between oral comprehensive exam and dissertation defense). These materials must accompany the petition sent to COGA.

COGA will then consider the petition. Depending on the nature of the petition, the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs and/or the College Committee on Graduate Studies may also consider the petition before a ruling is made. Students may then expect an answer directly from the COGA office within 7-10 days. COGA's [petitions web page](#) provides additional information regarding University petitions, including supplemental documentation that may be required by the University. Additional information regarding the more common University petitions, such as Leave of Absence, enrollment requirements, and Time Limit Extensions may also be found in the University Policies & Degree requirements section of this document.

In cases where the graduate faculty declines to support a University petition, no paperwork may be submitted to COGA. COGA only accepts student petitions in cases where there is documented departmental support and when the petition itself is submitted by a representative of the department.

Students should always consult with the DGS prior to submitting a petition to the graduate faculty to ensure that a petition is necessary and that all the appropriate supporting documentation is accounted for.

Grievance Procedures

The Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies advises that graduate students make an attempt to resolve issues, especially matters concerning grades, directly with the instructor or party involved, or with the department chair. If a grievance arises that cannot be resolved directly, or if the student does not

feel comfortable attempting to resolve the issue with the department chair, the student should follow the department's official grievance procedure, which has been approved by the University and may be found via the link below:

[CLAS Grievance Procedure](#)

Regular & Timely Feedback from Dissertation Advisors and Department

To ensure academic success and professional growth, all graduate students will receive regular and timely feedback on their research and coursework. Graduate faculty who teach in the Slavic graduate program meet annually to evaluate each graduate student's progress, and their evaluation is communicated to each student in a formal annual evaluation letter, written either by the Department's Director of Graduate Studies (for first-year MA students) or by the student's graduate research advisor or co-advisors.

Doctoral candidates are encouraged to meet with their research advisor or co-advisors frequently. At the professional PhD portfolio preparation stage, these meetings are formalized as independent study courses, with the advisor and the student mutually agreeing on the frequency of the meetings and the work to be completed prior to each meeting. The advisor or co-advisors should strive to provide both oral and written feedback on the submitted portfolio materials within 3 weeks of their submission. To support positive mentoring relationships and facilitate timely completion of the dissertation, beginning in Fall 2026, each doctoral advisee and their research advisor or co-advisors will be asked to complete a mentoring agreement and include it in the student's professional PhD portfolio prior to its defense. The mentoring agreement will outline the timeline for the research and writing of dissertation chapters and explain how feedback will be provided to the student and with what frequency.

MASTER OF ARTS IN SLAVIC & EURASIAN STUDIES

The KU Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies Department offers the Master of Arts in Slavic and Eurasian Studies with two concentrations: Slavic Languages and Literatures or Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies. The Department's graduate programs prepare students for a variety of professional positions. While many KU Slavic students choose to remain in the academic sector, others have gone on to careers in government service, NGOs (non-governmental organizations), other public-sector positions, administration, high-school and community-college teaching, and professional-education support, among other career paths. Our graduate faculty and their colleagues are ready to mentor students to succeed on whatever path they choose to pursue.

Slavic Languages & Literatures Concentration

Work toward the M.A. degree at the University of Kansas consists of a traditional curriculum that provides students with important foundational knowledge. Our curriculum includes historical surveys of the major literary periods and genres, understanding of the structure and function of Slavic languages, knowledge of disciplinary methodologies employed in our field, development of appropriate language capacity, and control of writing and research strategies.

Students pursuing the M.A. in the Slavic Languages and Literatures Concentration may choose as their primary language and culture Russian, Bosnian/Croatian/Montenegrin/Serbian, Polish, or Ukrainian.

Requirements for the M.A. Degree

The M.A. degree in the Slavic Languages and Literatures Concentration requires a minimum of 30 hours of course work. The University of Kansas operates on the semester system; most graduate courses are thus 15 weeks long and provide three credit hours toward degree. See [prerequisites for admission](#) to graduate study.

In the Slavic Languages and Literatures Concentration, the M.A. degree may either serve as a gateway to Ph.D. work or as a stand-alone terminal degree.

Coursework

M.A. students successfully complete the following set of courses for 30 credit hours*:

- SLAV 710: Introduction to Slavic Languages and Linguistics;
- SLAV 824: Proseminar Method Teaching Slavic Language;
- A minimum of three course electives in Slavic literature;
- A minimum of three course electives in Slavic linguistics;
- Two additional course electives in either Slavic literature or linguistics;
- At least one elective must be a graduate seminar.

***At least 50% of coursework for the master's degree must be taken at the 700 level or above.**

Examinations

After completing the minimum 30 hours, students undertake either:

1. [terminal M.A. written and oral exams](#), after which they conclude their graduate studies and move on to their chosen professional fields, **or**
2. [M.A./Ph.D. Qualifying written and oral exams](#) that will allow them to continue on to Ph.D. work in either the Slavic Languages & Literature or the Slavic Linguistics track.

Students who enter the KU graduate program with an M.A. degree from another institution must take the M.A./Ph.D. Qualifying exam as soon as they feel ready, but no later than the second semester of their enrollment.

Students completing the M.A. degree without intent to continue to Ph.D. work have the opportunity, in consultation with the Director of Graduate Studies, to adjust their program to meet specific career goals.

[Current M.A./Ph.D. Russian Reading List](#)

[M.A. Terminal Examination Template](#)

[M.A./Ph.D. Qualifying Examination Template](#)

Russian, East European, & Eurasian Studies Concentration

The Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies (REES) MA Concentration is a collaborative program between [CREES](#) and KU's Department of Slavic, German & Eurasian Studies. The REES MA Concentration consists of 30 credit hours and is typically completed as a 2-year program.

The Program is interdisciplinary and draws on the participation of over 50 faculty members and courses from 19 different KU departments and schools. Students have the opportunity to specialize in a specific area of interest (including history, culture, politics, economics, and law) and can take advantage of the excellent language instruction offered by KU in 7 REES-related languages.

Since the beginning of its graduate program in 1968, CREES has trained hundreds of leading experts in Russian, East European, and Eurasian studies. Its alumni include ambassadors, academic specialists, policymakers, military officers, leaders of non-governmental organizations, and business executives.

Degree Requirements

Requirements for the degree include 30 credit hours with at least 50% of coursework at or above the 700 level. The requirements for the degree are distributed as follows:

- 1 course in a REES-related advanced foreign language (500-level or higher) for 3 credit hours.
- 7 graduate-level area studies courses focusing on the REES region for a total of 21 credit hours, taken in consultation with the advisor.
- Successful completion of one of the following research methods and capstone sequences, totaling 6 credit hours and culminating in a research paper using materials in the student's chosen target

language. Students may choose a given track based on their interests and the availability of courses. Students taking an equivalent methods/capstone sequence in another department may petition to substitute that sequence. Prior to enrolling in the second course in their selected sequence, students must have completed an advanced language course in the target language.

- Pass a progressive academic examination model known as the MA portfolio, a body of work that showcases the student's interdisciplinary knowledge and expertise of the REES world area. At the end of the student's final semester, the portfolio is read by a committee of three graduate faculty and tested through a 90-minute oral examination.

Methods and Capstone Sequences

Global and International Studies Option

- [GIST 710](#) Research Design for International Area Studies
- [GIST 810](#) Graduate Writing Experience **or** [GIST 898](#) Thesis and Research Project Writing

History Option

- [HIST 802](#) Seminar in: _____
- [HIST 805](#) The Nature of History

Literature and Culture Option

- [SLAV 760](#) The Russian Novel in the Age of Realism
- [SLAV 762](#) Russian Theatre and Drama from Stanislavski and Chekhov to the Present **or** [SLAV 767](#) Post-Soviet Literature

Linguistics and Culture Option

- [SLAV 710](#) Introduction to Slavic Languages and Linguistics
- [SLAV 722](#) The Grammatical Categories of Russian: Linguistic Units, Functions and Meaning **or** [SLAV 824](#) Proseminar in Methods of Teaching Slavic Languages I

Politics Option

- [POLS 705](#) Research Design for Political Science
- [POLS 899](#) Thesis

Requirements may be modified in special cases with the director's approval, particularly for students with special needs, such as Experienced Teacher Fellows, Foreign Area Officers, or candidates for degrees in the professional schools. All students are encouraged to study abroad, if possible.

Examinations

Upon completion of their 2-year REES MA degree program, students are expected to:

- demonstrate broad knowledge of the history, cultures, societies, and politics of the region;

- acquire language proficiency at the appropriate level of professional competence and use it in research activities;
- apply the variety of disciplinary and interdisciplinary approaches to the study of the region;
- attain an on-site experience and analytical skill appropriate for an area expert

The traditional written MA exam has now been replaced with a portfolio, which consists of the items listed below. The portfolio is read by a committee of three graduate faculty (from the student's three main areas of expertise) and tested through a 90-minute oral examination at the end of the student's final semester.

Components

A. Committee:

The student creates the MA committee of three graduate faculty (from the student's three main areas of expertise) no later than the 7th week of the penultimate semester of study.

B. MA Reading List:

By the 12th week of the penultimate semester the student together with the committee creates an MA reading list of no less than 20 readings that are crucial to understanding contemporary area studies, the student's three main disciplines, and the student's main region of focus.

C. The Electronic Portfolio:

The student places in the electronic portfolio proof that all requirements for the REES MA degree have been met. The student demonstrates in written scholarly work:

- Proficiency in the student's chosen foreign language (FL) with the result of an oral exam, signed by the student's 3rd-4th year FL instructor showing at least intermediate in oral proficiency, and a research-level proficiency in reading comprehension as demonstrated in a reading journal
- Ability to read and synthesize in written scholarly work a substantial number of sources in a target foreign language
- Knowledge of the student's special region from at least three disciplinary perspectives
- Use of a variety of methodologies
- Ability to synthesize theoretical and practical knowledge of regional affairs
- Cultural knowledge and awareness of the operation of diverse cultural patterns
- Effective oral presentation of scholarly findings
- Effective critical writing skills

Portfolio Contents

The portfolio includes 6 items and is presented by the student in an oral exam format to an MA committee including 3 graduate faculty from 3 major area disciplines. The portfolio may be in hard-copy or in digital format (for example, on Blackboard) and must be accessible to the student, the student's MA committee,

the CREES Director, and the CREES Associate Director. The MA student's portfolio is composed as follows:

3 Samples of Major Scholarly Writing

3 samples of major scholarly writing (each at least 3000 words + bibliography with both English and target language sources). These samples must include at least one original research paper and may include two of the following:

- a series of 3 policy briefs;
- a historiography paper or other synthetic essay with a critical literature review;
- an annotated literary translation;
- other lengthy, critical work approved by the student's committee.

All three writing samples must have been completed in courses taken in 3 of the 5 required REES area distributions. Each piece of work should demonstrate appropriate knowledge of the given discipline and the ability to use its methodologies and understand its current research areas.

These papers or equivalent assignments will already have been graded. The portfolio provides the opportunity to edit and adapt them, as needed. These papers/projects are the source of questions or discussion during the oral examination. Taken together, this work must demonstrate clear use of and intellectual engagement with sources in the student's target language.

The 3 papers/projects are due in the portfolio by the end of the 8th week of the student's final semester.

The Synthetic Essay

The Synthetic Essay (approximately 3500-word text + bibliography, 13-15 pp.):

The synthetic essay should be an intellectual response to the student's work through the penultimate semester of area studies coursework, as well incorporating outside reading from the MA Reading List in the chosen region of specialization. It is the student's opportunity to reflect upon what he or she has learned, while drawing conclusions about the ways that various disciplinary ways of thinking intersect and inform each other.

The synthetic essay addresses the following themes or questions:

1. ***Based on coursework at KU (including language courses) and the MA reading list for the student's chosen region of specialization, what are the major regional themes or problems?*** An answer to this question need not give equal emphasis to each of the five major disciplinary perspectives, but it should not be limited to, say, the student's major subject discipline. The student seeks to define topics common to several disciplinary approaches or overlapping themes. To illustrate major points, the student uses specific examples from primary sources, whether from coursework or the MA reading list.
2. ***How has the study of various disciplinary approaches affected the way the student views this special area?*** How, for example, does normative or statistical analysis inform humanistic

study, and vice versa? The student uses specific examples, both from coursework and the MA reading list.

3. ***What are the student's conclusions concerning the area studies degree?*** What are the main concepts or ways of thinking that the student has absorbed? How does the student make sense of the REES interdisciplinary experience?

The Professional Essay

The Professional Essay (approximately 1500-word text):

This essay should be viewed as an extended first draft of a future job application letter in the student's field. If the synthetic essay looks back, the professional essay should look forward, picking up where the synthetic essay left off and should address the following questions:

1. What is the student's career objective?
2. How has the KU REES MA prepared the student to move into a related career (please address, among other things, the REES curriculum, faculty, programming, resources)? If the plans include continuation of graduate study, the student will want to discuss how the area studies degree has offered good preparation and helped to shape the student's interests for further study at the PhD level.
3. How will the area studies approach impact the student's future life and work?

MA Capstone Seminar Paper

MA Capstone Seminar Paper (approximately 7500-word text + bibliography). The student deposits a full (if still rough) draft of the MA capstone seminar paper by the end of the 8th week of the student's final semester.

One week before the oral examination (or by the end of the 12th week of the semester) the student provides the MA committee with a more finished draft of the capstone paper.

No later than the 7th week of the penultimate semester of study, the REES student forms a committee of 3 graduate faculty, representing the three disciplinary emphases of the student's portfolio papers (please see III.A.2.b.5)a) above).

Submission

The student must submit all portfolio items at least one week prior to the oral examination, which is the final exam of record. If the student fails to submit all required items by this deadline, the student will not be able to proceed with the oral examination. A student may reschedule an oral examination only once, and only with the approval of the MA committee.

Final Exam of Record

In the **final exam of record** the student conducts a 90-minute presentation of the portfolio to the MA committee. Approximately 30% of questions and answers will address the 3 research papers (or equivalent projects); 40% will deal with the MA capstone seminar paper; 30% will engage with the student's synthetic

and professional essays. Following an unsuccessful performance, the student may retake the oral examination once.

University Degree Requirements

M.A students should also see the [University Degree Requirements & Policies section](#) of this document for general KU requirements for degree, including information on time limits, exam committees and graduation requirements.

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN SLAVIC LANGUAGES & LITERATURES

In addition to the [general KU requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy](#), a student must complete the following departmental requirements the following departmental policies and requirements apply for Ph.D. studies in Slavic Languages and Literatures.

After passing the M.A./Ph.D. Qualifying Examination, students begin Ph.D. work. Unlike the M.A., which has a specific curriculum intended to develop foundational knowledge, the Ph.D. is flexible and open-ended. It allows students to explore specific interests that will lead to their dissertation project. Toward this end, students take additional course work to expand their foundational base further, develop additional research skills, explore various methodologies, and focus on areas of particular intellectual interest. During Ph.D. coursework students develop a sub-field in considerable depth and “test-drive” possible dissertation topics.

Ph.D. training is unique to each student, because each student has their own intellectual interests, working style, and professional goals. Regular consultation with the academic advisor is a sine qua non of this period of “scholar-apprenticeship,” because in this stage of study students craft their profile (whether academic or professional) and begin their professionalization (such as engaging in conference activity, writing book reviews, drafting articles, grant proposals, and syllabi, seeking internships, preparing for the job search, etc.).

General Qualifications

It should not be assumed that successful completion of the M.A. degree automatically entitles one to admission to the Ph.D. program. While there is no limit on the number of applicants who can be admitted to the doctoral program, and while the minimal requirement set by the University is a B average in undergraduate and graduate work, the Department exercises a rigorous selectivity in its admissions. Only candidates with superior academic records and demonstrated aptitude for advanced study and independent research will be admitted to the doctoral program. In the case of applicants who have completed the M.A. at the University of Kansas, results of the M.A./Ph.D. Qualifying Examination will be considered along with all other evidence. Applicants with a conferred M.A. from another institution will be expected to have references bearing on all aspects of their preparation and promise, and particularly on their aptitude for original research.

Completion Requirements

Building on the M.A. foundational base, the KU Ph.D. degree program encourages students to develop their particular intellectual interests in collaboration with KU faculty and their areas of specialization. Ph.D. students also learn a second Slavic language and develop knowledge of a secondary field. For the second field, we encourage our students to choose from philosophy, linguistics, religion, history, theatre and cinema, literary theory, comparative literature, and folklore.

Two concentrations are offered in the Ph.D. Program:

- Slavic Literatures and Cultures
- Slavic Linguistics

Ph.D. students interested in working in the field of Slavic language pedagogy pursue their studies through the Slavic linguistics Ph.D. concentration.

By the end of their Ph.D. coursework, students will have completed the following:

1. **The Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship (RSRS) Requirement:** This demonstrates the student's ability to conduct research in their field in a Western European language.

Most students select German or French, depending on their research interests, but other languages may fulfill this requirement depending on the proposed dissertation project. If students have studied French or German as undergraduates, they may take a placement exam in the appropriate department; if not, most departments offer an intensive "Language for Reading" course. This is not just a "hoop," this is an important skill. Students should plan ahead for this (e.g. summer study, intensive reading course), consult with their advisor, and select the foreign language that best meets their long-range research needs.

2. **The Second Slavic Language and Literature Requirement:** This demonstrates knowledge of a additional Slavic language(s) and culture/literature.

Slavic literature/culture students and those who focus on Second Language Studies must take, at a minimum, one year of another Slavic language and one course in that language's literature or culture. Student research or employment interests usually indicate the appropriate language choice. Slavic linguistics students must have knowledge of at least one East Slavic, one West Slavic, and one South Slavic language.

3. **The Minor Requirement:** This demonstrates knowledge of another discipline and methodology that enriches and expands the student's research and teaching.

This minor may be outside the Department (history, anthropology, sociology, foreign language, religion, general linguistics, film and theatre, area studies, second language acquisition, etc.) or within the Department (another Slavic literature and culture; linguistics for literature students; literature for linguistics students; etc.). Selecting the right minor is very important, as it will play a role in the student's dissertation project, in the academic profile, and in the nature of future employment. Students should select the minor for good reason and in consultation with the academic advisor. Students should complete at least 9 credit hours in their minor field.

4. **A professional portfolio examination:** This examination will serve as the Oral Comprehensive Exam and consists of a student's presentation and defense of their professional Ph.D. portfolio after fulfilling all other requirements for the Ph.D., with the exception of the dissertation. The professional Ph.D. portfolio includes the dissertation prospectus as well as other materials that document the student's command of major and minor fields, ability to undertake research, and the skills necessary to traverse the profession independently. A successful exam result will trigger the student's enrollment in dissertation credit toward dedicated research and writing of the terminal document for the Ph.D. degree.
5. **A dissertation:** Students will write, defend and submit an appropriate dissertation: this demonstrates the student's ability to undertake, plan, and complete a sustained piece of original research.

Grades for Dissertation Hours and Consequences of Unsatisfactory Grades

The following table describes what each grade represents, and what action will be taken by the program (if any).

Grades for Dissertation Hours and Consequences of Unsatisfactory Grades

Grade	Description of Grade	Action by Program
Satisfactory Progress - SP	The student has met the goals of the semester as agreed upon with the faculty advisor. The progress made in the semester supports timely completion of the dissertation.	The student is making satisfactory progress toward their degree. No action is needed.
Limited Progress - LP	The student completed less than what was agreed upon with the faculty advisor. The semester's progress may cause delays in the timely completion of the dissertation.	The COGA Advisor will track grades of LP in the program. If two consecutive grades of LP, or a third LP are reported for a student, the faculty advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies will review the student's record and may recommend academic probation and/or a mentoring agreement.
No Progress - NP	The student has shown no evidence of completed work or did not make progress toward the dissertation.	The COGA advisor will track any NP grades in the program. If a student receives a NP, the student is not making satisfactory progress toward their degree and is considered out of good academic standing. The faculty advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies will review the student's record, have the student complete a mentoring agreement, and place the student on academic probation. Additional NP grades may trigger the dismissal of the student from the program.

Ph.D. Examinations and Dissertation Defense

M.A./ Ph.D. Qualifying Exam

All students must take the qualifying examination to be admitted to Ph.D. work. For KU students, the M.A. examination serves as the qualifying examination. Students who hold the M.A. degree from another

institution but begin Ph.D. work at KU are required to take the qualifying examination within 2 semesters of entry into the program.

[Current M.A./Ph.D. Russian Reading List](#)

[Current Ph.D. Reading List for a minor in Polish Literature](#)

[M.A./Ph.D. Qualifying Examination Template](#)

By no later than one month after the start of the final semester of coursework, Ph.D. students will consult with faculty members to finalize the choice of three members of their Ph.D. comprehensive exam committee, plus a fourth committee member from outside the department. (This process should not be left to the last minute.) Both the reading lists and the names of the Ph.D. examination committee will be submitted to the DGS for final approval within the first month of the semester.

Professional Ph.D. Portfolio Exam

From the first semester in the program, graduate students prepare a Professional Portfolio representing their work. Through the portfolio, students demonstrate their command of their fields and their preparation to undertake dissertation research. The portfolio should be prepared with this purpose in mind.

1. The portfolio examination demonstrates that post-M.A. students in the Department have:
2. Acquired the appropriate knowledge base,
3. Developed the skills that will allow them:
 - a. To identify a research question,
 - b. To complete the dissertation successfully,
 - c. To become competent and responsible teachers, researchers, and writers, and
 - d. To embark on a lifetime of constant learning and continued scholarly evolution, regardless of career path.

The portfolio examination provides post-M.A. students an opportunity to:

1. Take stock of their achievements, strengths, and weaknesses,
2. Reflect on the quality of their progress through the program, and
3. Outline their future intellectual or career trajectory.

[Slavic Literatures and Cultures and Slavic Linguistics Portfolio Exam Contents and Considerations](#)

[Ph.D. Portfolio Exam Procedure](#)

After passing the Portfolio Exam for a doctoral degree, the candidate must be continuously enrolled until all requirements for the degree are completed; each enrollment must reflect as accurately as possible the candidate's demands on faculty time and university facilities. **For further information, see the section on [Continuous Enrollment for Post-Comprehensive Students](#)** under the General University Requirements section of this document.

Dissertation Defense / Final Doctoral Exam

At the time of the portfolio exam, the student should have a dissertation proposal ready to present to the graduate faculty of the department. The dissertation defense and the approved electronic submission of the dissertation is the final requirement of the program.

SGES evaluates the dissertation according to a specific rubric, which is posted on the [Graduate Student Examination and Portfolio Information page](#). Students should become familiar with this rubric and the stated expectations before they begin to write.

It is the responsibility of the individual student, in consultation with the advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies, to ensure that they have met all requirements of the Department and of the [KU Office of Graduate Studies](#).

Mentoring Agreements (See [Appendix F](#) for the Post-Ph.D. Comprehensive Exam Contract)

During the post-comprehensive enrollment period, the doctoral candidate will meet with the dissertation director at the start of each term (spring, summer, and fall) and come up with a defined set of goals that will be written out and approved by the director. Once both the student and advisor have agreed on the terms of the contract, a copy will be sent to the DGS, **no later than two weeks after the start of term**. At the end of each term, the director will assign a grade commensurate with work and results achieved during the term. Students should plan on producing at least a draft of a chapter, along with other professional development activities (conference papers, book reviews, article submissions, etc.) each term.

Unless a dissertation is being co-chaired, or there is specific need for the expertise of faculty members, the primary advisor will be the one to provide timely feedback to students. Depending on the chapter being written or topic under consideration, students may be advised to consult with their second or third readers in order to incorporate their feedback early on. Showing second or third readers in the department chapters early on and getting feedback before the actual defense may address objections early, thus ensuring that the dissertation is on track.

In general, the third, fourth, and fifth readers are expected to read only the **completed copy of the dissertation that will be made available to all members of the committee at least three weeks prior to the scheduled defense**.

The dissertation director may reconvene the primary committee of three faculty members as needed to have the doctoral candidate present a report on research and writing progress. Two weeks before such a meeting, the student will submit all written work completed to that point, as well as a CV that highlights work completed over the last year.

When the dissertation has been approved by the dissertation committee, the final examination (or defense) may take place. The Ph.D. candidate will work with the Graduate Program Coordinator to arrange the dissertation defense date and location near the beginning of the semester in which the student anticipates they will defend. The examination committee consists of five members of the graduate faculty: the three who make up the dissertation committee, a fourth member from the department, and a fifth member from outside the department who will serve as Graduate Studies representative. The dissertation is accepted or rejected (or accepted subject to revision) by a majority of the faculty members on this five-person committee.

At least three weeks prior to the scheduled defense, the candidate must provide copies of the dissertation in essentially final form to members of the committee. The candidate should ask committee members if they prefer electronic or hard copy. It is the responsibility of the dissertation director to see that the

dissertation copies and abstract are provided as stipulated by the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs.

It is the candidate's responsibility to know and meet Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs requirements concerning dissertations. Well in advance of the completion of the dissertation, the student should be aware of the dissertation submission guidelines outlined by the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs. For the most recent update on regulation and the submission of theses are posted on the Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs site regarding [Electronic Thesis and Dissertation logistics](#).

At the final examination, questions and discussion will normally center on the dissertation, but may also range beyond it, to related material, to the general literary area or genre, etc. The dissertation is accepted or rejected by a majority vote of the committee members; a tie vote is a failing vote.

Although the Graduate School representative may choose to abstain, they are invited both to question the candidate and to cast a vote. The award of "Honors" is given when both the dissertation and the student's performance on the oral examination are judged (again by a majority vote) to be outstanding.

Students must follow the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs' guidelines for electronic submission of the dissertation, as well as providing one *bound copy* to be submitted to the department. For further information, see [Graduation Requirements](#) under the University Degree Requirements and Policies section of this document.

UNIVERSITY POLICIES AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

This section contains information on requirements and policies of the Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs, hereafter referred to as “the University”. It is not a complete list of all policies pertaining to graduate students. Only those policies that *most commonly* affect graduate students are included.

Policies are described in general terms and are intended to help students understand what is expected. They do not reflect the exact language of the official policy and should not be confused with official policy. Specific information and restrictions as well as links to relevant forms may be accessed by clicking on the policy headings. Links to the official policies in the KU policy library are found at the bottom of each policy description. Students are accountable to and should familiarize themselves with the University's official policies.

GENERAL POLICIES

The following University policies apply to ALL graduate students regardless of degree, program, or department. These are minimum general requirements. Your department or program may have more restrictive policies in any of these areas.

[Admission](#)

Degree or non-degree seeking applicants must have a bachelor's degree (as evidenced by an official transcript from the institution the degree was obtained).

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Admission to Graduate Study](#)

[English Proficiency Requirements](#)

The University requires all applicants, international or domestic, to demonstrate English proficiency for admission to any graduate program at KU. There are multiple ways to prove English proficiency:

- Declaration of native or native-like speaker status on the online application for graduate study.
- Official scores from an English proficiency standardized test (e.g. TOEFL, IELTS-Academic, or PTE), sent by the testing agency to the University of Kansas. Official scores must be less than two years old. Scores must be reported to KU directly by the testing service. Self-reported scores or unofficial scores are not accepted. TOEFL scores should be sent by ETS to KU institution code 6871. IELTS should be sent to KU Graduate Admissions via the e-delivery service. PTE score sheets containing the Score Report Code and Registration ID should be emailed to graduateadm@ku.edu for verification.
- Graduation with a baccalaureate degree (or higher) earned in residence from an accredited English-medium college or university or an accredited college or university in the United States. Degrees earned

online may not be used to verify English proficiency. Note: this option is not sufficient for employment as a Graduate Teaching Assistant.

- AEC Curriculum: Students who haven't taken one of the listed tests may complete coursework through the KU [Applied English Center](#) (AEC) to demonstrate English proficiency.
- US Military Employment: If you are employed as an officer in the U.S. military with documentation of selection or promotion to the rank of Major or higher (or the equivalent U.S. Navy or Coast Guard rank), then you will be considered fully proficient and will not be required to complete AEC testing.

Additional English Competency Requirements for GTAs:

English proficiency requirements for GTAs are governed by the Kansas Board of Regents and must be met separately from the English proficiency requirement for admission to a KU graduate program. Detailed information on English proficiency requirements for GTAs may be found on Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs' [Spoken English Competency page](#).

Related Policies and Forms:

- [English Proficiency Requirements for Admission to Graduate Study](#)
- [Spoken English Language Competency of Faculty and Graduate Teaching Assistants, Kansas Board of Regents Policy](#)

Enrollment

For graduate students, advising on enrollment and course selection take place at the department level. While individual units may have additional enrollment requirements, for students who are required to enroll full-time (e.g. students holding a GTA/GRA/GA appointment, international students on an F-1 or J-1 visa, students receiving federal financial aid, etc.) the University defines full-time enrollment it as follows:

Fall and Spring semesters:

- Enrollment in 9 credit hours;
- Enrollment in 6 credit hours plus a GTA, GRA, or GA appointment, regardless of percentage of appointment;
- Enrollment in 6 credit hours for graduate students using the Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB-AD) and Post-9/11 GI Bill – Active Duty;
- Doctoral candidates enrolled in dissertation hour(s). *See Doctoral post-comprehensive enrollment.
- Enrollment in 6 competencies for students in a Competency-Based Education (CBE) program

Summer sessions:

- Enrollment in 6 credit hours;
- Enrollment in 3 credit hours plus a GTA, GRA, or GA appointment, regardless of percentage of appointment;
- Enrollment in 3 credit hours for graduate students using the Montgomery GI Bill – Active Duty (MGIB-AD) and Post-9/11 GI Bill – Active Duty;
- Doctoral candidates enrolled in dissertation hour(s).
- Enrollment in 6 competencies for students in a CBE program

Graduate students are not normally permitted to enroll for more than 16 hours a semester or more than 8 hours in summer session.

While these are KU's definitions of full-time enrollment, other institutions may have different definitions. Be sure to consult with your financial aid and/or health insurance providers before making enrollment decisions.

Students not enrolled by 11:59pm the day before the first day of classes will be assessed a late enrollment fee. The University Registrar then deactivates the KU ID of any not enrolled by the last Friday in October (for Fall) or last Friday in March (for Spring). Students who wish to enroll after that must submit a [Permit to Re-Enroll](#) to be reactivated.

Students who wish to leave their graduate program should inform the department of such plans in writing so that a Voluntary Withdrawal form may be submitted on their behalf. Please note that voluntarily withdrawing from your program does **not** automatically withdraw you from coursework. You must also withdraw from all classes in Enroll & Pay via the "Withdraw from the University" option.

Deadlines for adding, changing, dropping, or withdrawing from all courses, as well any fines associated with the change, are set by the University. **Deadlines vary from year to year. Students should carefully review the current [Academic Calendar](#).**

You may also wish to consult the Registrar's page on [Effects of Dropping or Withdrawing on your Transcript](#).

Your graduate program coordinator (or similar title) is available to guide you through any enrollment scenarios or questions that come up. In order to avoid problems on your record, please consult with them prior to dropping or changing enrollment.

Related Policies:

- [Discontinued Enrollment](#)
- [Enrollment](#)
- [Full-time Enrollment for Graduate Students](#)
- [Graduate Coursework Expiration Dates](#)
- [Master's Degree Requirements](#)

Graduate Credit (Including Transfer Credit)

The University's Graduate Credit [policy](#) defines KU's conditions for the following:

- Definition of graduate credit for the purposes of a course "counting" towards a graduate degree or graduate certificate at KU;
- Transfer of graduate credit to KU from an outside institution;
- Reduction in the required number of graduate hours for Master's students;
- Counting credit hours taken as non-degree seeking student towards a later graduate degree at KU;
- Counting credit hours taken as a certificate seeking student toward another graduate degree.

Transfer Credit

The transfer credit option allows master's students to add graduate-level coursework completed at another institution to their KU transcript to count toward their KU degree. Upper-level coursework taken as an undergraduate, even courses numbered at the graduate level, is not eligible for transfer in any case. Additional restrictions apply to what non-KU graduate courses and the number of credit hours that can be counted toward a KU master's degree, so students should carefully review the information provided in the link above and the related policies below, as well as consulting with their DGS. In all cases, transfer credit must first be approved at the department or program level. To begin the transfer process, students should consult with their DGS to submit the required transfer materials. These include a transcript reflecting the courses to be transferred and descriptions and/or syllabi for the courses in question.

No transfer of credits is allowed for the Ph.D. In circumstances where students enter the Ph.D. program with an M.A. from another institution or other relevant graduate coursework, it may be possible for students to request a reduction in the number of hours required for the Ph.D. Students should consult with their DGS about their enrollment plan.

Reduced Credit Hour Degree

KU policy defines 30 hours as the minimum for master's degrees. Departments may petition for a reduced hour degree master's degree for individual students in cases where they may provide evidence that the student entered the program especially well-prepared to complete a graduate-level degree and the student is able to maintain a superior grade point average. Reduced credit hour degrees must be based on coursework or experiences that can be objectively measured, such as coursework or qualifying internship or study abroad programs. Professional or life experience does not qualify. A reduction in hours is distinct from a transfer of credit and is reserved for students whose prior coursework doesn't qualify for transfer credit (e.g. was already used to fulfill requirements towards a completed degree) and there are no modifications on the transcript.

Restrictions apply to the number of credit hours that can be reduced for a master's degree, so students should carefully review the information provided in the link above and the related policies below.

In all cases, a reduction in hours must first be approved at the department or program level, so to begin the process for approval, students should consult with their DGS. Students must also provide documentation of the coursework or experience being used to justify the reduced hours (e.g. transcripts, program descriptions).

Because there is no minimum number of required hours for the Ph.D., reduction of required hours based on prior degrees or experience is determined solely at the program level. Doctoral students should consult with their DGS about their enrollment plan.

Related Policies:

- [Graduate Credit](#)
- [Co-enrollment](#)
- [Master's Degree Requirements \(on Reduced Hour Master's Degree\)](#)

Credit/No Credit

The University supports and encourages interdisciplinary study, which may include graduate students enrolling in coursework at the graduate level that is outside of their primary discipline. The Credit/No Credit (CR/NC) is an option for graduate students who are taking a course that is not required for their degree or certificate and who do not wish to have the course grade reflected in their cumulative graduate GPA. Rather than a grade appearing on the transcript, the student receives a designation of CR or NC, which does not factor in the GPA.

No course graded CR/NC will count toward the satisfaction of any graduate degree or certificate requirement. This includes, but is not limited to, courses taken to fulfill the Research Skills and Responsible Scholarship requirement for doctoral students.

Students make the CR/NC election via the Registrar's CR/NC [online request](#) form. Elections and changes to elections can only be made during the specific CR/NC period. For regular semester courses, this period begins after the last day to add a class and extends for approximately two weeks. Exact dates may be found on the current KU [Academic Calendar](#). Please keep in mind, short courses may have [alternate dates](#).

The student should consult with their own program advisor about the appropriateness of the course prior to enrolling; however, in cases where CR/NC is elected, the course instructor is not informed of the election unless the student chooses to share this information.

Additional restrictions apply. Students should carefully review the information in the link above.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [University Senate Rules and Regulations \(USRR\), Section 2.3.8](#)

Probation & Dismissal

Probation is an academic status that can be assigned to a graduate student that is not making [satisfactory progress](#) toward completing their degree. The department initiates the probation process and will inform

the student of why they are not making satisfactory progress, what they must do to return to good standing, and the deadline for doing so.

Students are most commonly placed on probation due to their graduate cumulative [GPA](#) dropping below a B average (3.0 on a 4.0 scale). In these cases, probation occurs automatically and is reflected on the student's record for the semester following the semester in which the student's GPA drops below 3.0. If the student's cumulative GPA is raised to 3.0 by the end of the probationary semester, the student will be automatically returned to good academic standing.

Individual Schools/the College may set more stringent GPA requirements.

Students may also be placed on probation by their departments for other reasons that constituting a failure to make satisfactory progress towards degree. These may include, but are not limited to;

- Lack of progress on the thesis, dissertation, or capstone project
- Unacceptable academic performance on program milestones outside of coursework (e.g. exams)
- Unsatisfactory grades or GPA within foundational required courses (despite the overall cumulative GPA)
- An unsatisfactory result in their department's annual progress evaluation

Nearing or going beyond their maximum time to degree. See the Time Limits section below for more information.

Students should carefully review the [Good Academic Standing policy](#) for graduate students at KU for more information on what constitutes making satisfactory academic progress.

Individual programs may also have additional measures of progress. Students should also consult the Annual Review section of their department graduate handbook or the degree requirements section and with their program advisor for more information.

If a student is unable to raise their cumulative GPA or otherwise meet the communicated terms of the academic probation, the department will reconsider their continuation in the program, and in most cases will recommend the student for dismissal. Once dismissed, a student is no longer able to be enrolled in coursework and cannot complete their degree. Students dismissed from any graduate program may not be admitted to any other graduate program at the University of Kansas.

A student on probation or facing dismissal should discuss their status with their advisor.

Related Policies:

- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Dismissed Enrollment](#)
- [Good Academic Standing policy](#)

Grading

The Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs' (GPA) [Grading policy](#) governs requirements for the grading of graduate students above those described in [Article II](#) of the University Senate Rules and Regulations. Additionally, individual schools, departments, or programs may have grading policies that are more stringent than those of GPA.

Students should also consult their advisor and the departmental grading section of this handbook for additional information that may affect them.

At minimum, for all graduate students at KU, at least a B average is required on course work counted toward any of the master's degrees at KU, and only courses graded A, B, or C (excluding C-) may be counted. Course work counted toward a doctorate, including that for a master's degree if obtained at KU, should average better than a B.

Related Policies:

- [University Senate Rules & Regulations](#)
- [Grading](#)
- [Academic Probation](#)
- [Dismissed Enrollment](#)

Time Limits

The University expects that master's degree should typically be completed in two (2) years of full-time study, the doctorate degree in five (5) years of study, and both the master's and doctorate together in six-seven (6-7) years of study.

Students who anticipate exceeding these targets should review the information in the policies below, as well as consult with their program advisor to create a timeline for degree completion. In order to support this process, students are encouraged to use a Mentoring Agreement Template and/or adapt to their own needs to support effective mentoring and a positive mentoring relationship.

Note that individual schools/the College/degree programs may require Mentoring Agreements for students who are nearing their maximum time to degree.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Master's Degree Program Time Constraints](#)
- [Engagement and Enrollment in Doctoral Programshttps://policy.drupal.ku.edu/graduate-studies/doctoral-program-time-contraints](https://policy.drupal.ku.edu/graduate-studies/doctoral-program-time-contraints)
- [Doctoral Degree Comprehensive Oral Exams](#) (on exam expiration and recertification)

- [Doctoral Program Profiles with Time to Degree Information](#)
- [KU CLAS Mentorship Agreement Template](#)
- [Univ. Michigan Rackham Graduate School Mentoring Plan Templates](#)
- [KU Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs IDP template](#)

Leave of Absence

In exceptional circumstances (e.g. cases of illness, emergency, financial hardship, military leave, to pursue family responsibilities, or to pursue full-time activities related to long-range professional goals) it may be necessary for graduate students to take a break from their program temporarily, without having to withdraw entirely from the program. An approved leave of absence allows a student to take a temporary break from enrolling in graduate coursework while remaining in good standing with the University and the department and while “stopping the clock” on their time to degree. When a student is on Leave of Absence status it is understood that they have temporarily suspended their graduate work and therefore will not make use of University resources, including faculty time.

Requesting a Leave of Absence is done through a University petition. University petitions must first be approved and supported at the program level, so students wishing to initiate the petition process should first consult with their Director of Graduate Studies and review their department’s internal petition procedures. Units or the Director of Graduate Study may request documentation to support the student’s need for a leave of absence.

In order for a Leave of Absence to be approved, the student must be withdrawn from all active and/or future enrollment. Withdrawal for the purposes of Leave of Absence is still subject to all Registrar deadlines, required forms, and applicable tuition and fees.

Students on Leave of Absence are automatically reactivated after their leave is over and are eligible to enroll for their intended semester back during the normal enrollment periods. See the KU [Academic Calendar](#) for exact dates that enrollment begins.

If at any time plans change and a student wishes to return and enroll before leave was supposed to end, they may contact their department to be reactivated early.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Leaves of Absence \(policy\)](#)
- [Leave of Absence \(GPA website, form linked at bottom of page\)](#)

Required University Milestones

All graduate students must complete one or more exams as part of their degree requirements. In addition to department or program guidelines, the following milestones are required for all students and specific regulations apply:

- Master's Final Culminating Exam (written or oral)/Thesis Defense for Master's degree
- Doctoral Comprehensive Oral Exam
- Doctoral Final Exam/Dissertation Defense

*A final culminating effort is not required for departments with an approved coursework-only master's degree option in the Academic Catalog (note that programs with a capstone are considered coursework only).

Before a student is allowed to complete any of these three exams, pre-approval from the school/College is required in advance of the exam date. This pre-approval request will be submitted on the student's behalf by their department after the exam date has been scheduled. The school/College reviews the student record and verifies all University requirements have been fulfilled. The full list of these requirements may be found via the link in the heading above. Students should work with their departments well in advance of their planned exam date, to schedule their exams in a timely fashion and to ensure that all University policies relating to oral exams are being followed.

There are additional policies requirements for oral exams. The following are University policies pertaining to oral exams:

Oral Exam Committee Composition

All voting committee members must be appointed members of the Graduate Faculty of KU. Additionally, a majority of committee members serving on a graduate student oral examination committee must be tenured/tenure-track faculty in the candidate's department or program of study.

Many additional restrictions apply, especially for doctoral exam committees. Master's and doctoral students should carefully review the University policies pertaining to exams, as well as consult with their Director of Graduate Studies when forming an exam committee. Your graduate program coordinator can assist with confirming the qualifying status of any faculty member at KU, or outside of KU.

Oral Exam Attendance

Oral Exams may be conducted in-person, remotely, or a hybrid of both. There are no University level requirements for physical presence; however, there are strict regulations on participation.

In all cases, all committee members must be present, either physically or via phone/video conference, for an exam to commence. **If a committee member does not arrive or appear, the exam may not begin and if a committee member leaves or loses connection such that they cannot fully participate, the exam may not proceed. Oral examinations that do not meet these attendance requirements are not valid.**

Master's and doctoral students should carefully review the policies below, as well as consult with their Director of Graduate Studies in the formation of an oral exam committee.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Master's Student Oral Exam Committee Composition](#)
- [Doctoral Student Oral Exam Committee Composition](#)

- [Oral Exam Attendance](#)
- [Graduate Faculty Appointments](#)

DOCTORAL DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

In addition to the student's individual Ph.D. program's degree requirements, the following are University requirements for graduation with a Ph.D. at KU.

[Enrollment Requirement](#)

Prior to the semester in which the comprehensive exam is held, all doctoral students must complete a minimum program engagement equivalent to two full-time semesters. This may be accomplished through either of the following:

- Two semesters (fall and/or spring) of full-time enrollment in KU coursework, as defined by University policy
- At least 18 hours of enrollment in KU coursework spread out over several part-time semesters

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Engagement and Enrollment in Doctoral Programs](#)

[Continuous Enrollment for Post-Comprehensive Students](#)

During the semester in which the doctoral oral comprehensive exam is completed and each fall and spring semester follows, doctoral students must adhere to very specific enrollment requirements. These requirements may be different than enrollment requirements prior to the oral comp exam.

Failure to properly comply with the enrollment requirements may cause delays to graduation or additional enrollment requirements to make up what was missed, increasing tuition expenses near the end of your degree program.

To avoid delays or additional costs, you are also strongly advised to meet with your graduate program coordinator the semester before your oral comprehensive exam. Your graduate coordinator will work with you to develop an enrollment plan that meets all policy requirements, while also preventing unnecessary or avoidable fees.

Post-comprehensive enrollment requirements also apply to students with GTA/GRA/GA appointments, but these students must be certified to drop their enrollment levels. Departments are responsible for tracking student enrollment and will submit the certification form on the student's behalf **at least two weeks prior** to the beginning of the semester in which the enrollment will drop below 6 hours. Students who are certified to reduce hours continue to meet the University's definition of full-time enrollment, as well as the enrollment requirements of their employment contract.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Full-time Enrollment for Graduate Students](#)
- [Doctoral Candidacy](#)

GRADUATE CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

The University offers a variety of [Approved Graduate Certificate Programs](#) to encourage current graduate students to pursue interdisciplinary study, gain a credential for expertise in an outside area of study, or provide an option for a coherent course of advanced study for those not ready to commit to a full degree program. Note that students must be fully admitted to a graduate certificate by the end of the last course that will count to fulfill the certificate. Students wishing to complete the certificate should apply as early as possible. Students whose interests or career goals may be served by a Graduate Certificate should familiarize themselves with the University's policies relating to Certificate programs (found below) early in their graduate career, in addition to individual certificate program requirements.

Related Policies and Forms:

- [Graduate Certificate Programs: Eligibility and Admission Criteria](#)
- [Policies & Procedures for Graduate Certificate Programs](#)

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS (Master's & Ph.D.)

In addition to all program requirements, students [planning to graduate](#) must complete all University graduation requirements **prior to the published Graduation Deadline** in a given semester. Students should consult the current [Academic Calendar](#) for the published Graduation Deadline, which varies by semester.

Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs Graduation Checklists ([Master's](#) | [Doctoral](#))

These graduation checklists provide a comprehensive list of all University requirements for graduation and should be consulted by every graduating master's or doctoral student as soon as graduation is expected. Submission of the final draft of the thesis or dissertation is done electronically. Students must comply with all University requirements for [formatting](#) and [electronic submission](#) of the thesis or dissertation. There is no University requirement that students provide a bound or printed copy of the draft.

We strongly encourage students to submit an Application for Graduation as early as possible; ideally prior to the 20th day of classes of the semester they intend to graduate.

GRADUATE & POSTDOCTORAL AFFAIRS FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The Office of Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs (GPA) offers funding opportunities in several different categories. Students interested in applying should direct inquiries to the department's Director of Graduate Studies or

to GPA. Some of the available funding includes:

[Summer Research Scholarships](#): intended primarily for post-comp doctoral students.

[Graduate Student Travel Fund](#): intended for graduate students presenting a paper at a national or regional meeting of a learned or professional society. A student may receive an award (max \$750) only once per academic year, with priority given to students who have not received the fund previously. Funds are available on a first-come, first-served basis.

[Doctoral Student Research Fund](#): Designed to support KU doctoral students who need assistance to carry out research that advances progress toward the degree. Applications for this fund are accepted only for a limited time as funding is available. Students are eligible to receive one award from this fund during their doctoral career. Students should check the link above for additional information and restrictions.

Policies Regarding Freedom of Expression on Campus

Kansas State Law (HB2333) requires postsecondary educational institutions in Kansas to publish in their handbooks and orientation programs the institution's policies, regulations, or expectations of students regarding free expression on campus.

Per KU General Counsel, this includes the following two policies:

- [KU Public Assembly Policy](#)
- [Kansas Board of Regents Statement on Free Expression](#)

Note that the two policies listed above apply to ALL members of the campus community; they are not specific to graduate students.

STUDENT RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Graduate students are bound by the rules and regulations of the University of Kansas. Students should review the KU [Code of Student Rights and Responsibilities](#). When rules are violated and disciplinary action is necessary, the penalties imposed may include warning, probation, suspension, and expulsion.

APPENDIXES

Appendix A – Graduate Student Annual Assessment

Student Name:

Degree program (M.A. or Ph.D.):

Date entered current degree program (e.g. Fall 2016):

Graduate Student Self-Assessment

Please provide an assessment of the past year and future goals as requested beneath. In addition, please submit a current CV.

1. List all course work completed, including grades. Indicate course work completed during the last year.
List cumulative GPA.
2. Other degree requirements completed (e.g. language requirement).
3. Examinations completed, if any, with dates (Departmental M.A. written and oral exams, Ph.D. portfolio).
4. Classes taught or classes for which you serve as a grader (indicate role, describe workload, quantify hourly preparation time).
5. Grants/Fellowships during the past 12 months.
6. Conference papers, book reviews, articles, and other professional development activities.
7. What progress have you made towards the M.A./Ph.D. reading list?
8. (For post-M.A. students) What progress have you made toward your portfolio? Do you have a course paper that could be developed into an article-sized essay for the portfolio?
9. (For post-M.A. students) Do you have a dissertation topic? What steps have you taken in trying to develop a dissertation topic?
10. (For Ph.D. students) Status of dissertation. Describe your progress in the last year.
11. What do you regard as your academic strengths and weaknesses?
12. What do you plan to accomplish in the coming year?
13. What are your professional goals post-graduation, and what would help you achieve them?
14. Extenuating circumstances during the past year (if applicable).

Appendix B – Master’s Examination Template

M.A. Terminal Examination in Slavic Languages & Literatures

The M.A. terminal examination completes the student’s study program in the department. It is written in one day and takes four consecutive hours. Students have the option of writing by hand or taking their examination on a computer provided by the department.

Plan to spend a brief portion of the time organizing your response, and the remainder of the time writing.

DAY 1

- A. Write on your choice between two essays on Slavic language [1 hour]
- B. Write on your choice between two essays on Slavic literature [1 hour]
- C. Write on four shorter questions, choose from among six; at least one must be on language and linguistics, at least one must be on literature [15 minutes each]
- D. Identifications; answer as many of 30-40 IDs as possible, split between language and literature [1 hour]

ORAL EXAM: Successful completion of the written examination is followed by a one-and-a-half hour oral examination within five business days of writing.

Appendix C – M.A. / Ph.D. Qualifying Examination Template

M.A./Ph.D. Qualifying Examination in Slavic Languages & Literatures

The M.A./Ph.D. Qualifying examination allows the student to continue on to Ph.D. work. It is written over two days and must be completed within a single week. Students have the option of writing by hand or taking their examination on a computer provided by the department.

Plan to spend a brief portion of the time organizing your response, and the remainder of the time writing.

DAY 1 (3.5 hours)

- A. Write on your choice between two essays on Slavic language (1-1.5 hours)
- B. Write on your choice between two essays on Slavic literature/culture (1-1.5 hours)
- C. Identifications; answer as many of 25-30 IDs as possible, split between language and literature/culture
[30-45 minutes]

DAY 2 (4 hours)

- A. Six shorter essays, chosen from ten questions; at least two must be on literature/culture, at least two on language and linguistics [40 minutes per question]

ORAL EXAM: Successful completion of the written examination is followed by a 1.5-2 hour oral examination within five business days of the second written exam.

Appendix D – Ph.D. Portfolio Examination Templates

The Portfolio Ph.D. Examination—*Literature and Culture*

The Professional Portfolio

From the first semester in the program, graduate students prepare a Professional Portfolio representing their work. This portfolio replaces the written comprehensive examinations. Through the portfolio, students demonstrate their command of their fields and their preparation to undertake dissertation research.

The Portfolio should contain the following items:

I. The Curriculum Vitae

1. The CV outlines the student's professional biography to date and shows the student's ability to present the academic self.

II. Documentation of Learning

Purpose: The student must demonstrate their acquisition of field knowledge and possession of the skills to advance to the dissertation stage and then into the academy or a profession. To demonstrate this, the student will 1) submit **two independently developed syllabi on Slavic literature**, 2) submit **a research paper and one course syllabus in the minor**, 3) demonstrate through testing the ability to use the **foreign language or languages** studied (testing will be conducted prior to the portfolio defense).

1. TWO syllabi developed by the student that demonstrate more in-depth knowledge of a period of Slavic literature different from the period of specialization tested by the M.A./Ph.D. Qualifying exam:
 - a. syllabus for an introductory-level survey course of this period;
 - b. syllabus for an upper-level seminar addressing a particular topic from this period.

Both syllabi will be discussed during the portfolio defense to test the student's knowledge of this period of Slavic literature.

2. A **polished research paper in the student's minor field** and **one syllabus in the minor** developed by the student.

Both documents will be discussed during the portfolio defense to test the student's knowledge of their minor field.

III. Documentation of Ability to Undertake Research

The student must demonstrate that they have acquired the research, critical thinking, and complex writing skills to succeed at the dissertation stage and beyond. Documentation of research includes:

1. **Analytical (original research) essay** on a topic chosen with the advisor (7000–8000 words) [article].
 - a. This should be an essay with a broad scope that contributes to existing scholarship.
 - b. The essay should be written with complete scholarly apparatus, edited, and presented in polished and “publishable” form (ideally, you should have submitted or be ready to submit the work to an academic journal).

2. A **statement of research interests** (circa 1000 words).
3. A **dissertation prospectus** (4000–5000 words) with a **bibliography** and an **abstract** (150–300 words).
4. Other document(s) that the advisor and the student agree should be included, such as:
 - a. sample post-M.A. research essays;
 - b. conference papers/abstracts, if any;
 - c. book reviews; and
 - d. any other publications or works under consideration.

IV. Documentation of Teaching

The student must demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate teaching skills, mastered appropriate pedagogical strategies, and thought reflectively about the nature, purpose, and methods of teaching. This section includes:

1. Syllabi of courses taught
2. Samples of teaching materials developed, if relevant (exams, handouts, activities)
3. Student evaluations from all courses taught and sample teaching observations
4. One syllabus for a survey course from the student's area of concentration (literature and/or culture), developed by the student
5. Statement of teaching philosophy (1000–1500 words)
 - a. Discuss any courses taught
 - b. Discuss your teaching style and how it might have evolved
 - c. Discuss any core principles that guide or motivate your teaching style
 - d. Address any successful teaching strategies/methods
 - e. Mention any courses you would like to have the opportunity to teach

V. Documentation of Professional Development (as relevant)

In today's competitive job environment, the student must demonstrate that they have acquired the skills necessary to traverse the profession independently. This section includes:

1. Grant proposals (whether funded or not), if such exist,
2. Mock cover letter for an academic job in your field of specialization (1.5–2 pages, single-spaced)
 - a. Include mock sample job description to which the letter is tailored
 - b. Discuss your dissertation and other research interests and accomplishments
 - c. Discuss teaching experience and teaching interests at the hiring institution

The Portfolio Oral Examination

Following completion of coursework, students present the portfolio formally to their Supervisory Committee through the process described below. By this time, they must have fulfilled all requirements for the Ph.D. established by the Department and Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs with the exception of the Portfolio Oral Examination, the 18 credit hours of dissertation research, and the dissertation itself.

Prior to taking the Portfolio Oral Examination, it is the responsibility of students to:

1. remove the grade of "Incomplete" in any course that will count toward degree;
2. meet the FLORS requirement (as stipulated in the Graduate Catalog) in a non-Slavic foreign language (usually French or German);

3. demonstrate reading competence in a second Slavic language through a written test.

Students need to inform the Director of Graduate Studies of their intention to submit and defend their PhD portfolio at least 6 months before the defense is scheduled.

The student names their Supervisory Committee of at least 4 graduate faculty members, two of whom are the primary advisor and the faculty in the minor, following the successful conclusion of the MA/PhD Qualifying Exam. The primary advisor chairs the Supervisory Committee. A tenure/tenure-track faculty member from outside the Slavic Department who serves on the Committee also fulfills the role of the official Graduate Studies Representative at the examination. The student may change members of the Supervisory Committee in consultation with departmental Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies.

The student must schedule the Portfolio Oral Examination one month in advance and upon receiving the advisor's approval of the portfolio materials, make the complete portfolio available to the committee electronically at least two weeks in advance of the defense. Ahead of the defense, the student's primary advisor circulates the student's dissertation prospectus among all graduate faculty in the department.

All Supervisory Committee members participate in the two-hour Portfolio Oral Examination. The Examination consists of a free-form, broad intellectual discussion that stems from the materials presented in the portfolio and includes student's defense of the choice and direction of the dissertation project.

The Supervisory Committee Chair and the Graduate Studies Representative fill out the exam outcome form that is then submitted to COGA for processing. Additionally, the Chair reports the results of the oral examination in writing (via email is sufficient) to the Director of Graduate Studies who then reports the results on the proper form to the Graduate School.

The Portfolio Ph.D. Examination—*Slavic Linguistics*

The Professional Portfolio

From the first semester in the program, graduate students prepare a Professional Portfolio representing their work. This portfolio replaces the written comprehensive examinations. Through the portfolio, students demonstrate their command of their fields and their preparation to undertake dissertation research.

The Portfolio should contain the following items:

I. The Curriculum Vitae

The CV outlines the student's professional biography to date and shows the student's ability to present the academic self.

II. Documentation of Learning

Purpose: The student must demonstrate their acquisition of field knowledge and possession of the skills to advance to the dissertation stage and then into the academy or a profession. To demonstrate this, the student will 1) submit a synthetic essay, 2) submit a research paper and one course syllabus in the minor, 3) demonstrate through testing the ability to use the foreign languages studied (testing will

be conducted prior to the portfolio defense).

- i. **Synthetic essay.** (7000–7500 words). The student and the Supervisory Committee may think of this as the equivalent of survey chapter in a book or the introductory portion of an advanced lecture on the topic. The topic of the synthetic essay is decided by the student's Supervisory Committee, in collaboration with the student. The synthetic essay should be diachronic if the student's specialty is synchronic, and vice-versa. In the synthetic essay the student should:
 - a. Cover a research theme outside her or his immediate area of expertise.
 - b. Give a coherent and intelligent summary, supported with references to relevant primary and secondary sources for that theme, etc.,
 - c. Demonstrate control of a research area outside the student's special field of interest.
 - d. Some examples of possible topics: the main changes from Indo-European to Slavic, the diatopy of Slavic through major isoglosses, case studies of the degree of success of the enforcement of language policy, differences in the case systems of two or more Slavic languages, differences in the verbal systems of two or more Slavic languages, specific issues in pragmatics of one or more Slavic languages, interaction between morphology/syntax and narrative structure of one or more Slavic languages; many of these topics can accommodate comparative consideration of Slavic and another area language of concentration (e.g. Yiddish).
- ii. A **polished research paper in the student's minor field** and **one syllabus in the minor** developed by the student.

Both documents will be discussed during the portfolio defense to test the student's knowledge of their minor field.

III. **Documentation of Ability to Undertake Research**

The student must demonstrate that they have acquired the research, critical thinking, and complex writing skills to succeed at the dissertation stage and beyond. Documentation of research includes:

1. **Analytical (original research) essay** on a topic chosen with the advisor (7000–8000 words) [article].
 - a. This should be an essay with a broad scope that contributes to existing scholarship.
 - b. The essay should be written with complete scholarly apparatus, edited, and presented in polished and “publishable” form (ideally, you should have submitted or be ready to submit the work to an academic journal).
 - c. The linguistics research essay should document the student's ability to work with data, as appropriate for the concentration and dissertation topic. This includes issues like data collection, ethics, human subjects as applicable, work with corpora (synchronic and diachronic), statistics if applicable, etc.
2. A **statement of research interests** (circa 1000 words).
3. A **dissertation prospectus** (4000–5000 words) with a **bibliography** and an **abstract** (150–300 words).
4. **Other document(s)** that the advisor and the student agree should be included, such as:
 - a. sample post-M.A. research essays;
 - b. conference papers/abstracts, if any;

- c. book reviews; and
- d. any other publications or works under consideration.

IV. Documentation of Teaching

The student must demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate teaching skills, mastered appropriate pedagogical strategies, and thought reflectively about the nature, purpose, and methods of teaching. This section includes:

1. Syllabi of courses taught
2. Samples of teaching materials developed, if relevant (exams, handouts, activities)
3. Student evaluations from all courses taught and sample teaching observations
4. One syllabus for a survey course from the student's area of concentration, developed by the student
5. Statement of teaching philosophy (1000–1500 words)
 - a. Discuss any courses taught
 - b. Discuss your teaching style and how it might have evolved
 - c. Discuss any core principles that guide or motivate your teaching style
 - d. Address any successful teaching strategies/method
 - e. Mention any courses you would like to have the opportunity to teach

V. Documentation of Professional Development (as relevant)

In today's competitive job environment, the student must demonstrate that they have acquired the skills necessary to traverse the profession independently. This section includes:

1. Grant proposals (whether funded or not), if such exist,
2. Mock cover letter for an academic job in your field of specialization (1.5–2 pages, single-spaced)
 - a. Include mock sample job description to which the letter is tailored
 - b. Discuss your dissertation and other research interests and accomplishments
 - c. Discuss teaching experience and teaching interests at the hiring institution

The Portfolio Oral Examination

Following completion of coursework, students present the portfolio formally to their Supervisory Committee through the process described below. By this time, they must have fulfilled all requirements for the Ph.D. established by the Department and Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs with the exception of the Portfolio Oral Examination, the 18 credit hours of dissertation research, and the dissertation itself.

Prior to taking the Portfolio Oral Examination, it is the responsibility of students to:

- a. remove the grade of "Incomplete" in any course that will count toward degree;
- b. meet the FLORS requirement (as stipulated in the Graduate Catalog) in a non-Slavic foreign language (usually French or German);
- c. take a written test to demonstrate reading competence in two non-primary Slavic languages, which together with the student's primary Slavic language cover all three language families (East, West, and South Slavic).

Students need to inform the Director of Graduate Studies of their intention to submit and defend their PhD portfolio at least 6 months before the defense is scheduled.

The student names their Supervisory Committee of at least 4 graduate faculty members, two of whom are the primary advisor and the faculty in the minor, following the successful conclusion of the MA/PhD Qualifying Exam. The primary advisor chairs the Supervisory Committee. A faculty member from outside the Slavic Department who serves on the Committee also fulfills the role of the official Graduate Studies Representative at the examination. The student may change members of the Supervisory Committee in consultation with departmental Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies.

The student must schedule the Portfolio Oral Examination one month in advance and upon receiving the advisor's approval of the portfolio materials, make the complete portfolio available to the committee electronically at least two weeks in advance of the defense. Ahead of the defense, the student's primary advisor circulates the student's dissertation prospectus among all graduate faculty in the department.

All Supervisory Committee members participate in the two-hour Portfolio Oral Examination. The Examination consists of a free-form, broad intellectual discussion that stems from the materials presented in the portfolio and includes student's defense of the choice and direction of the dissertation project.

The Portfolio Ph.D. Examination—*Second Language Studies*

The Professional Portfolio

From the first semester in the program, graduate students prepare a Professional Portfolio representing their work. This portfolio replaces the written comprehensive examinations. Through the portfolio, students demonstrate their command of their fields and their preparation to undertake dissertation research.

The Portfolio should contain the following items:

I. The Curriculum Vitae

The CV outlines the student's professional biography to date and shows the student's ability to present the academic self.

II. Documentation of Learning

Purpose: The student must demonstrate their acquisition of field knowledge and possession of the skills to advance to the dissertation stage and then into the academy or a profession. Depending on their research interests and professional aspirations, SLS students will develop either a more literature/culture-oriented portfolio or a more linguistics-oriented one. As part of a literature/culture-oriented portfolio, students will submit 1) two independently developed syllabi on Slavic literature and culture, and 2) a research paper and one course syllabus in the minor. As part of a more linguistics-oriented portfolio, students will submit 1) a synthetic essay and 2) a research paper and one course syllabus in the minor. SLS students will also demonstrate through testing the ability to use the foreign language or languages studied (testing will be conducted prior to the portfolio defense).

1. **The two syllabi** developed by the student for a literature/culture-oriented portfolio should include:
 - a. syllabus for an introductory-level course in Slavic culture;
 - b. syllabus for an upper-level course in Slavic literature to be taught in Slavic, with the goals of developing both the learners' knowledge of literature and their level of proficiency in Slavic. Both documents will be discussed during the portfolio defense to test the student's knowledge of the Slavic literature and culture included in the syllabi.

OR:

1. **Synthetic essay.** (7000–7500 words) developed by the student for a linguistics-oriented portfolio may be thought of as the equivalent of a survey chapter in a book or the introductory portion of an advanced lecture on the topic. The topic of the synthetic essay is decided jointly by the student and the advisor. In the synthetic essay the student should:
 - a. Cover a research theme outside her or his immediate area of expertise.
 - b. Give a coherent and intelligent summary, supported with references to relevant primary and secondary sources for that theme, etc.,
 - c. Demonstrate control of a research area outside the student's special field of interest.
 - d. Some examples of possible topics: the main changes from Indo-European to Slavic, the diatopy of Slavic through major isoglosses, case studies of the degree of success of the enforcement of language policy, differences in the case systems of two or more Slavic languages, differences in the verbal systems of two or more Slavic languages, specific issues in pragmatics of one or more Slavic languages, interaction between morphology/syntax and narrative structure of one or more Slavic languages; many of these topics can accommodate comparative consideration of Slavic and another area language of concentration (e.g. Yiddish).
2. A **polished research paper in the student's minor field** and **one syllabus in the minor** developed by the student.

Both documents will be discussed during the portfolio defense to test the student's knowledge of their minor field.

III. Documentation of Ability to Undertake Research

The student must demonstrate that they have acquired the research, critical thinking, and complex writing skills to succeed at the dissertation stage and beyond. Documentation of research includes:

1. **Analytical (original research) essay** on a topic chosen with the advisor (7000–8000 words) [article].
 - a. This should be an essay with a broad scope that contributes to existing scholarship.
 - b. The essay should be written with complete scholarly apparatus, edited, and presented in polished and “publishable” form (ideally, you should have submitted or be ready to submit the work to an academic journal).
2. A **statement of research interests** (circa 1000 words).
3. A **dissertation prospectus** (4000–5000 words) with a **bibliography** and an **abstract** (150–300 words).
4. **Other document(s)** that the advisor and the student agree should be included, such as:
 - a. sample post-M.A. research essays;
 - b. conference papers/abstracts, if any;
 - c. book reviews; and
 - d. any other publications or works under consideration.

IV. Documentation of Teaching

The student must demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate teaching skills, mastered appropriate pedagogical strategies, and thought reflectively about the nature, purpose, and methods of teaching. This section includes:

1. Syllabi of courses taught
2. Samples of teaching materials developed, if relevant (exams, handouts, activities)
3. Student evaluations from all courses taught and sample teaching observations
4. One syllabus for a survey course from the student's area of concentration (for ex., methods of teaching Slavic languages), developed by the student
5. Statement of teaching philosophy (1000–1500 words)
 - a. Discuss any courses taught
 - b. Discuss your teaching style and how it might have evolved
 - c. Discuss any core principles that guide or motivate your teaching style
 - d. Address any successful teaching strategies/method
 - e. Mention any courses you would like to have the opportunity to teach

V. Documentation of Professional Development (as relevant)

In today's competitive job environment, the student must demonstrate that they have acquired the skills necessary to traverse the profession independently. This section includes:

1. Grant proposals (whether funded or not), if such exist,
2. Mock cover letter for an academic job in your field of specialization (1.5–2 pages, single-spaced)
 - a. Include mock sample job description to which the letter is tailored
 - b. Discuss your dissertation and other research interests and accomplishments
 - c. Discuss teaching experience and teaching interests at the hiring institution

The Portfolio Oral Examination

Following completion of coursework, students present the portfolio formally to their Supervisory Committee through the process described below. By this time, they must have fulfilled all requirements for the Ph.D. established by the Department and Graduate & Postdoctoral Affairs with the exception of the Portfolio Oral Examination, the 18 credit hours of dissertation research, and the dissertation itself.

Prior to taking the Portfolio Oral Examination, it is the responsibility of students to:

- a. remove the grade of "Incomplete" in any course that will count toward degree;
- b. meet the FLORS requirement (as stipulated in the Graduate Catalog) in a non-Slavic foreign language (usually French or German);
- c. demonstrate reading competence in a second Slavic language through a written test.

Students need to inform the Director of Graduate Studies of their intention to submit and defend their PhD portfolio at least 6 months before the defense is scheduled.

The student names their Supervisory Committee of at least 4 graduate faculty members, two of whom are the primary advisor and the faculty in the minor, following the successful conclusion of the MA/PhD Qualifying Exam. The primary advisor chairs the Supervisory Committee. A faculty member from outside the Slavic Department who serves on the Committee also fulfills the role of the official Graduate Studies

Representative at the examination. The student may change members of the Supervisory Committee in consultation with departmental Chair and the Director of Graduate Studies.

The student must schedule the Portfolio Oral Examination one month in advance and upon receiving the advisor's approval of the portfolio materials, make the complete portfolio available to the committee electronically at least two weeks in advance of the defense. Ahead of the defense, the student's primary advisor circulates the student's dissertation prospectus among all graduate faculty in the department.

All Supervisory Committee members participate in the two-hour Portfolio Oral Examination. The Examination consists of a free-form, broad intellectual discussion that stems from the materials presented in the portfolio and includes student's defense of the choice and direction of the dissertation project.

The Supervisory Committee Chair and the Graduate Studies Representative fill out the exam outcome form that is then submitted to COGA for processing. Additionally, the Chair reports the results of the oral examination in writing (via email is sufficient) to the Director of Graduate Studies who then reports the results on the proper form to the Graduate School.

General Portfolio Exam Issues

- The student may begin work on the portfolio essays and organization at any point during the period of Ph.D. coursework under the direction of the Supervisory Committee. Students are encouraged to begin as early as possible so that they have time to take full advantage of breaks and vacations and to edit, revise, and polish their work. Time management, project planning, setting priorities, and working on multiple projects are an important part of this process.
- All essays must have an appropriate scholarly apparatus, be carefully edited, and be presented in a format "suitable for submission," i.e., as though for publication in a scholarly journal.
- The portfolio examination demands articulation with the curriculum, not only in terms of subject matter, but also in terms of a) concept, b) objectives, and c) assignments that follow the concept and help achieve these objectives. Such assignments prepare students for the portfolio process and may be incorporated into the portfolio.
- The portfolio examination is the result of significant mentorship of the student by three or more graduate faculty members who serve on the Supervisory Committee, especially from the Advisor. The Supervisory Committee, in consultation with the student, determines and approves the essay topics, ensures that the student remains on track and meets portfolio requirements in a timely manner, and assists the student as needed in writing, selecting, preparing, and posting materials for the portfolio.
- The Supervisory Committee engages regularly with the student from the time that the student completes the Ph.D. Qualifying Examination until the student defends the dissertation. The student meets regularly with the Supervisory Committee as they agree to assess progress and to set timetable targets for submission of the portfolio.

Appendix E – Ph.D. Portfolio Exam Procedure

Candidates for the Ph.D. degree must submit their Ph.D. portfolio materials and complete the Ph.D. portfolio oral examinations to pass on to the dissertation stage.

1. Candidates need to inform the Director of Graduate Studies of their intention to submit and defend their Ph.D. portfolio at least 6 months before the defense is scheduled.
2. The Candidate needs to assemble the Examination Committee prior to scheduling. The Ph.D. portfolio Committee consists of at least **four members**. There can be at least two types of configurations depending on the candidate's interests. There can be a) three members of the Slavic Department Graduate Faculty who reflect the academic interests and specializations of the candidate, one of whom represents the student's minor field; and b) one member of the Graduate Faculty from outside the SGES Department (this person could potentially also be in charge of the candidate's minor curriculum). Alternatively, there can be a) two members of the Slavic Department Graduate Faculty, and b) two Graduate Faculty from outside the department. According to university regulations, a committee member from outside the Department serves as the official Graduate Studies Representative at the examination.
3. The Candidate takes written translation exam(s) to prove their competency in additional Slavic language(s) prior to their portfolio defense.
4. In consultation with the Committee Chair, candidates must schedule the Ph.D. portfolio defense one month in advance and provide the committee with their materials at least two weeks in advance of the defense. It is the responsibility of Candidates for the Ph.D. Comprehensive Examination to:
 - a. Remove the grade of "Incomplete" in any course, which will count toward degree prior to taking the Ph.D. Comprehensive examination.
 - b. Receive approval of their Advisor that materials are ready for dissemination to the committee members.
5. Everyone in the committee participates in the two-hour oral defense of the portfolio. The defense consists of a free-form, broad intellectual discussion that stems from the materials presented in the Candidate's portfolio and extends to aspects of the reading list (for literature students) or coursework in linguistics (for linguistics students) as these relate to the Candidate's materials.
6. The Committee Chair and the Graduate Studies Representative fill out the exam outcome form that is then submitted to COGA for processing. Additionally, the Chair reports the results of the oral examination in writing (via email is sufficient) to the Director of Graduate Studies who then reports the results on the proper form to the Graduate School.

Appendix F – Graduate Mentoring Agreement

University of Kansas
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Department of Slavic, German, and Eurasian Studies
Mentoring Agreement

Until the student has passed the oral Ph.D. portfolio defense, they work with the advisor and committee toward the compilation of the Ph.D. portfolio, including the dissertation prospectus. This mentorship agreement is to be signed by the graduate student and the advisor AFTER completion of the Ph.D. portfolio. Sections 4–8 are to be filled out and signed by both parties. This agreement helps define the parameters of the working relationship between student and advisor and their respective responsibilities. The student's annual written evaluations from the department (written in consultation with the advisor) during this period rely on this agreement to evaluate the student's performance and adherence to the established scholarly goals.

1. **Student Name:**
2. **Advisor(s) Name:**
3. **Progress to Date:** Please outline in detail any research, writing, or other work toward the dissertation that has been completed to date.
4. **Milestones and Timeline:** Please provide detailed information on the expected steps toward completion, including the various stages of research, drafts, revisions, and final submissions.
5. **Feedback and Revisions:** Please explain who will provide feedback to the student and with what frequency. If a committee will provide feedback and review of student progress, please explain what the student should expect of this process.
6. **Professional Practice:** What is expected of the student in terms of professional practice? How should they communicate with the advisor and with what frequency? How should they prepare for meetings with the advisor and/or committee? What else should the student know about expectations (sometimes implicit) of a student at the dissertation stage?
7. **Consequences:** If the student does not complete the dissertation by the expected completion date, the followings steps will be taken:

By signing below, all parties acknowledge that they understand and agree to adhere to the expectations outlined in this Agreement.

Student Name:

Signature:

Date:

Advisor(s) Name(s):

Signature(s):

Date: