

## Sample timelines for Mellon/ACLS Dissertation Completion Fellowship applications

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

Applicants *are not required* to use one of these formats. Samples are provided to help demonstrate the variety of ways applicants make clear to reviewers how much work is complete already and the expected schedule for work from the application deadline in October through the 2017-18 fellowship year. While chapter titles have been removed from the samples below, you should include provisional titles, if you have them. Please note that timelines cannot exceed one page in length.

*Do not* take the progression of work—the work already complete, timing of submitting chapters, duration of revisions, etc.—as indicative of an ideal timeline for completion. Timelines vary substantially by field and by individual project; the requirements are simply that applicants (a) have obtained ABD status by the application deadline, (b) submit a completed chapter with the application, and (c) are prepared to complete their dissertations within tenure of the award and no later than August 31, 2018.

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### *Sample timeline #1*

#### **Dissertation completion timeline**

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

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

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

#### ***Writing deadlines***

Already completed	Chapter 3
December 2016	Chapter 2 ( <i>partially drafted, based on conference paper this spring</i> )
March 2017	Chapter 4
May 2017	Chapter 5
July 2017	Chapter 6 ( <i>partially drafted, for upcoming presentation</i> )
September 2017	Chapter 1
December 2017	Chapter 7
January 2018	Introduction, conclusion, and appendices

#### ***Revisions***

February 2018	Revise chapters 1-4
March 2018	Revise chapters 5-7
April 2018	Revise introduction, conclusion; finalize formatting

#### ***Submission***

May 2018	Submit complete draft to department
July 2018	Defend dissertation

*Sample timeline #2*

Timeline for completion of degree

The dissertation will consist of five substantive chapters, as well as an introduction and conclusion.		
<i>Status at the time of application (Oct. 2016)</i>		
Drafted and revised	Chapter three	Submitted with this application
Partially drafted	Chapter two	
<i>Oct. 2016 through the fellowship year (2017-18)</i>		
<b>Schedule</b>	<b>Task</b>	<b>Notes</b>
Now-Dec 2016	Finish chapter two	I will be presenting a paper from this chapter at XXX annual meeting, Jan. 2017
Jan-March 2017	Write chapter one and revise chap. two	I will be presenting a paper from this chapter at XXX conference in April 2017
Apr-June 2017	Write chapter four and revise chap. one	
July-August 2017	Research trip	Look at additional sources for chapter five
Sept-Dec 2018	Write chapter five and revise chap. four	
Jan-March 2018	Write introduction and conclusion; revise chap. five	
April 2018	Final revisions and submit to committee	
May 2018	Defend dissertation	

### *Sample timeline #3*

#### **Timeline**

- Chapter 2 is complete, chapter 1 is partially drafted, and chapter 4 exists as an outline.
- Almost all research for the dissertation has been completed, except some follow-up research in XXX archives for chapter 4.
- I have arranged to complete this research in Spring 2017.

Introduction and coda: To be drafted over Winter 2018

Chapter 1: To be finished in Fall 2016

- To be presented at XXX conference in Spring 2017

Chapter 2: Completed Summer 2016

- 25-page excerpt included with application
- Presented at workshop in XXX in September 2016

Chapter 3: To be drafted Spring 2017

Chapter 4: To be drafted Fall 2017

Final revisions: Winter-Spring 2018

Finish dissertation by April 2018 (no defense required for graduation)