

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 2019 through the 2020-21 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, 2021.

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 2019	Chapter 2 (<i>partially drafted, based on conference paper this spring</i>)
March 2020	Chapter 4
May 2020	Chapter 5
July 2020	Chapter 6 (<i>partially drafted, for upcoming presentation</i>)
September 2020	Chapter 1
December 2020	Chapter 7
January 2021	Introduction, conclusion, and appendices

Revisions

February 2021	Revise chapters 1-4
March 2021	Revise chapters 5-7
April 2021	Revise introduction, conclusion; finalize formatting

Submission

May 2021	Submit complete draft to department
July 2020	Defend dissertation

Sample timeline #2

Timeline for completion of degree

The dissertation will consist of five substantive chapters, as well as an introduction and conclusion.		
<i>Status at the time of application (Oct. 2019)</i>		
Drafted and revised	Chapter three	Submitted with this application
Partially drafted	Chapter two	
<i>Oct. 2019 through the fellowship year (2020-21)</i>		
Schedule	Task	Notes
Now-Dec 2019	Finish chapter two	I will be presenting a paper from this chapter at XXX annual meeting, Jan. 2020
Jan-March 2020	Write chapter one and revise chap. two	I will be presenting a paper from this chapter at XXX conference in April 2020
Apr-June 2020	Write chapter four and revise chap. one	
July-August 2020	Research trip	Look at additional sources for chapter five
Sept-Dec 2020	Write chapter five and revise chap. four	
Jan-March 2021	Write introduction and conclusion; revise chap. five	
April 2021	Final revisions and submit to committee	
May 2021	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 2020.

Introduction and coda: To be drafted over Winter 2021

Chapter 1: To be finished in Fall 2019

- To be presented at XXX conference in Spring 2020

Chapter 2: Completed Summer 2019

- 25-page excerpt included with application
- Presented at workshop in XXX in September 2019

Chapter 3: To be drafted Spring 2020

Chapter 4: To be drafted Fall 2020

Final revisions: Winter-Spring 2021

Finish dissertation by April 2021 (no defense required for graduation)