Recommended Timelines for Program Completion
(Updated 8/2017)

**MS in Sociology**

First Year
- **Complete 16-19 credits of coursework**
- **Choose a MS thesis advisor by the end of the spring semester (May)**
  (Note: You must choose a thesis advisor and additional committee members in order to submit the Plan of Study before completing your second semester in the MS program)

Second Year
- **Complete remaining 6-9 credits of coursework (or more) and 6 hours of thesis credits**
  (Note: If you take additional courses beyond the 25 credits of coursework and 6 thesis credits, do NOT include them on your MS plan of study [you may then count them toward the PhD])
- **Defend the MS thesis proposal by the end of the fall semester (December)**
- **Defend the MS thesis by the end of the second year (April for Spring graduation; July for Summer graduation [check the graduate college website for the specific date in a given year])**

**PhD in Sociology**

First Year
- **Complete 18-19 credits of coursework (including required theory and methods courses: SOC 5113, SOC 5123, SOC 5243, SOC 5263, & SOC 5273)**
- **Choose two areas of concentration and begin taking classes in these areas**

Second Year
- **Complete 18 credits of coursework**
- **Prepare for the first comprehensive exam**
- **Choose a doctoral thesis advisor by the end of the second year (May)**
  (Note: You must choose a thesis advisor and additional committee members in order to submit the Plan of Study before the end of your third semester in the doctoral program)

Third Year
- **Complete the remaining 5-9 non-doctoral thesis credits of coursework**
- **Pass the first comprehensive exam by the beginning of the third year (August)**
- **Pass the second comprehensive exam by the middle of the third year (January)**
- **Defend the doctoral thesis proposal by the end of the third year (May)**

Fourth Year
- **Complete the 15-18 hours of doctoral thesis credits**
- **Apply for jobs beginning in the early fall (September)**
- **Defend the doctoral thesis by the end of the fourth year (April for Spring graduation; July for Summer graduation [check the graduate college website for the specific date in a given year])**