# Rules of the Faculty of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences

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1. Administration

Application and Admissions

Qualified graduates of liberal arts colleges or universities of recognized standing may be admitted to the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences (GSAS) in any of the following doctoral programs:

Chemistry; Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology; Greek, Latin and Classical Studies; History of Art; Mathematics; Physics

These six graduate programs constitute two interdisciplinary groups. The Graduate Group in Archaeology, Classics and History of Art (GGACHA) fosters and facilitates collaboration among the three programs to promote interdisciplinary work in research and teaching. The graduate programs in Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics comprise the Graduate Group in Science and Mathematics (GGSM), whose goal is to provide opportunities for dialogue among these disciplines for collaborative research and professional development.

Qualified undergraduates of Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore College may pursue a joint A.B./M.A. degree by applying to the Bryn Mawr A.B./M.A. program in any of the above programs of the GSAS. Additionally, qualified undergraduates may apply to Bryn Mawr’s A.B./M.A. program in French, which offers graduate courses at the Bryn Mawr Institut d’Etudes Françaises d’Avignon.

During the admissions process for new applicants, the department to which the student has applied makes recommendations to the Dean of Graduate Studies for admission. In some cases, the application may be reviewed by the Steering Committee of the Graduate Group in Group in Archaeology, Classics and History of Art and redirected to another program. Admission decisions are made by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Advising

Each graduate program shall designate a faculty member to serve as the Director of Graduate Studies, who will be responsible for supervising the day-to-day concerns of the program and its students, as well as providing the primary advising for students who do not yet have a Dissertation Director. After a Dissertation Director has been named, that faculty member assumes primary responsibility for advising the student.
In general this advising shall include ensuring that students are informed of the rules and regulations of the GSAS and of their home department as well as regularly discussing with each student the student’s program and progress therein. That said, the primary responsibility for understanding and abiding by the rules, and for making appropriate progress towards the degree, rests with each individual student.

**Registration**

Every graduate student must register for courses with the Registrar and confirm that registration with the GSAS, following the rules and procedures set forth by each. These procedures include securing the permission of the student’s Director of Graduate Studies to undertake independent work/research as well as of instructor who will supervise that independent work. Graduate registration is considered final, but changes may be made, with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and, if necessary, the Dean of Graduate Studies during the drop/add period designated by the GSAS.

**Auditing:** A graduate student may register to audit a course following the same procedure, but first gaining the permission of the course instructor, the Director of Graduate Studies in the student’s home department, and the Dean of Graduate Studies.

**Reciprocal Registration:** Students may take a limited amount of work for Bryn Mawr graduate credit at institutions with which Reciprocal Plans have been approved by the Graduate Council and the President of the College. Under special circumstances, the Dean of Graduate Studies may approve such an arrangement at another institution for an individual student. Work at other institutions is limited to the equivalent of two units per year, and may not exceed one third of a student’s total program. In particular, no more than two such courses may be used to meet the six-course requirement for the M.A. degree. Students must register with Bryn Mawr College for all work to be done at other institutions and shall be subject to the same tuition and fees as students wholly enrolled at Bryn Mawr College.

**Leaves of Absence:** Students who have not advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. may take a leave of absence, discontinuing their graduate work for a period of time, by consulting their Director of Graduate Studies, then notifying the Dean of Graduate Studies. A leave of absence does not change the requirement that the degree of Master of Arts must be completed within a period of five years. Students who have advanced to candidacy for the Ph.D. may be granted a leave of absence by the Dean of Graduate Studies, with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies and the Dissertation Director, for a semester or a full academic year, and a leave may be renewed for an additional period, provided that the total does not exceed two academic years. Leaves of absence exceeding a total of two academic years will be granted to Ph.D. candidates only under exceptional circumstances, and only with the approval of the Director of Graduate Studies, the Dean of Graduate Studies, and the Graduate Council.
Continuing Enrollment: All graduate students, unless formally taking a leave of absence, must register for one or more units of work or for continuing enrollment. Continuing enrollment does not carry academic credit, but does permit the student to be certified as a full-time student. Departments must certify annually that students so enrolled are making adequate progress.

Certification to Outside Agencies: Students wishing certification of status to outside agencies should complete an appropriate form to be signed by the Director of Graduate Studies in their program and deposited with the GSAS.

Grading and Evaluations

Student Evaluations: At the end of each semester, the instructor of each unit of graduate instruction or supervision shall promptly submit a final evaluation of every student enrolled for that unit. In the case of a year-long course, an interim report shall be submitted at the end of the first semester. The evaluation shall consist of a formal grade and a descriptive passage, including a consideration of the student’s ability for advanced research and teaching.

Grading System: Students registered for graduate units shall receive a grade of: "Satisfactory" (S), "Unsatisfactory" (U), or "Incomplete" (I). "Graduate units" include undergraduate courses taken for graduate credit. Any graduate student taking an undergraduate course for graduate credit should be graded according to the graduate standards, "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory". The grade of "Satisfactory" shall only be awarded if the student’s work has met or exceeded an undergraduate 3.0 standard, including any additional work assigned to raise an undergraduate course to the graduate level. (see Section II, A) Any graduate student taking an undergraduate course receives a grade of "Satisfactory" if the student’s work has met or exceeded an undergraduate 3.0 standard.

Incomplete Work: If a graduate student's work is incomplete in any unit, the instructor will complete an evaluation, including a grade of "Incomplete" and a statement describing what the student must do in order to receive credit for the course and by what date. The date set shall be no later than 30 days after the beginning of the next fall semester. If the work is not complete by the date set, the record of "Incomplete" shall stand permanently.

Non-Continuation of Graduate Studies

Successful completion of an M.A. at Bryn Mawr College does not ensure departmental approval for continuation in graduate work toward the Ph.D.

In the case of unsatisfactory work, unsatisfactory progress toward the degree, or failure to pass the requirements for the M.A. or Ph.D. in timely fashion, the department may recommend the non-
continuation or exclusion of a student to the Dean of Graduate Studies, who will notify the student of the decision. A decision not to continue or to exclude a student means that the academic programs and services of the College are no longer open to that student except in cases in which the student is admitted, through the regular procedures, to another department.

If the student wishes to appeal the decision, he or she should direct the appeal to the Chair of the Graduate Council. The Chair of the Graduate Council will appoint an appeal committee consisting of the Chair of the Graduate Council and all faculty and graduate student members of Graduate Council. (In the event that any of these persons participated in the prior decision of unsatisfactory academic work, they will not be allowed to sit on the appeal committee). The appeal committee shall conduct a formal hearing, to which all appropriate persons, including representatives of the student’s department, shall be invited to appear. The decision of the appeal committee shall be final.

A student whose behavior disrupts the normal conduct of academic affairs within or beyond his or her department may be excluded by the Dean of Graduate Studies, in consultation with the student’s department. The student and his or her department shall be informed in writing (1) that the Dean of Graduate Studies is considering revocation of his or her award and (2) that he or she may appear at a hearing to be held at a specified time and place. At the hearing the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Director of Graduate Studies in the student’s program, and other appropriate members of the faculty (including, for degree candidates, the director of the student’s work) shall be present. In the case of accused misconduct, the student shall also be informed of the specific misconduct charged, that he or she shall have the right to select and have present any kind of counsel, to face and to examine witnesses, to call witnesses on his or her own behalf, and to appeal. If the student wishes to appeal the decision, a committee constituted of at least three faculty members of the Graduate Council will hear the student, a representative of the department, and the Dean of Graduate Studies. The committee will make its recommendations to the President; the President’s decision will be binding.

If the student wishes to appeal the decision, he or she should direct the appeal to the Chair of the Graduate Council. The Chair of the Graduate Council will appoint an appeal committee consisting of the Chair of the Graduate Council and all faculty and graduate student members of Graduate Council. (In the event that any of these persons participated in the prior decision of misconduct, they will not be allowed to sit on the appeal committee). The appeal committee shall conduct a formal hearing, to which all appropriate persons, including representatives of the student’s department, shall be invited to appear. The decision of the appeal committee shall be final.

In cases of exclusion in the course of an academic year, fees will not be refunded or remitted in whole or in part; fellowships, scholarships, and assistantships will be canceled.

2. PROGRAM OF STUDY
Academic Units of Graduate Work

The program of study in the GSAS is defined in terms of academic units. A one-semester graduate course and one semester of supervised independent work each count as one unit. A year-long graduate course counts as two units. Six units, or four units for a student holding a teaching or a graduate assistantship, constitute a full year’s academic program. For advanced students, at the department’s discretion, a full year’s academic program may consist of fewer units, such as one unit of supervised work (USW) taken each semester.

An upper-level (300-level) undergraduate course, supplemented by assigned additional work assigned at the discretion of the instructor, may be taken for graduate credit. Such a course counts as one academic unit and at most two such courses may count towards the six units required for a M.A. degree. Other undergraduate courses may be taken to complete a student’s prerequisites or to provide essential training in an allied field, but they do not carry graduate credit.

In certain circumstances, GSAS students may take up to two courses at the 200-level for graduate credit. Students must do additional work in such courses to bring them to the level of graduate courses. Permission and funding for such courses will be granted only when the curriculum is essential for their thesis and/or dissertation research.

With respect to language acquisition to pass the requisite examinations, and/or to conduct thesis and/or dissertation research, students may register to enroll or audit undergraduate language courses at the 00, 100, or 200 level offered at Bryn Mawr College. In all cases a request must be made to the Dean of Graduate Studies by the Graduate Director of the student’s program explaining the circumstances that merit registration in one or more additional units of language instruction.

Similarly, with respect to skills acquisition needed to conduct thesis and/or dissertation research, students may register to enroll or audit undergraduate courses. Also in these cases, a request must be made to the Dean of Graduate Studies by the Graduate Director of the student’s program explaining the circumstances that merit registration in courses providing skill instruction.

In general, only one such undergraduate course per year will be approved, with the exception of two-semester language sequences. Undergraduate language and/or skills courses do not count towards a full time course load of three graduate courses (or two graduate courses if the student is a TA).

Work done during the summer does not carry graduate credit, with the one exception of graduate work completed at the Institut d’Etudes Françaises d’Avignon, for which students typically earn two graduate units. Otherwise, only in extenuating circumstances, and at the invitation of a faculty member and with advance approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies, may a graduate student register to receive graduate credit for work to be done during the summer.
Admission to Graduate Courses

Admission to, and prerequisites for, a graduate course are under the jurisdiction of the department which may, at its discretion, reject unqualified students or may require insufficiently prepared students to take certain undergraduate courses before being enrolled in graduate courses. Departments may, when appropriate, open admission to particular graduate courses to undergraduates.

Journal Clubs and Colloquia

A colloquium or journal club, consisting of regular meetings of the instructors and the graduate students, may be required by any department as part of the regular program of study without such requirements appearing on the transcript as registered courses.

3. Graduate Financial Support Awards and Prizes

Awards

Bryn Mawr College fellowships, endowed graduate fellowships, scholarships, grants, teaching assistantships, graduate assistantships, curatorial internships and research assistantships and prizes are awarded according to the processes described below (III. B-D). In general, these awards require that the awardee be a student of the GSAS pursuing an advanced degree and carry a full program of academic work. Many of these awards also require a specified amount of service for the College.

Application

Each year graduate programs will be advised as to the availability of financial support awards and the level of award funding for both new and continuing students. Unless informed to the contrary, candidates for all graduate financial support awards must apply annually by the deadlines set by the GSAS. Each year, the Dean of Graduate Studies will set the dates for application, notification of awards, and acceptance or refusal of awards.

Nominations

Candidates for graduate financial support awards and prizes are nominated by departments or Graduate Groups after consideration of all relevant applicants. Alternates for graduate awards may
also be nominated. If more than one alternate is nominated, alternates shall be ranked according to the department or committee’s preference.

**Decision Process**

Nominations of students for financial support awards are first made by departments to the Dean of Graduate Studies. For non-competitive financial support awards (i.e., GSAS Fellowships), the Dean of Graduate Studies makes the final decision. For competitive financial support awards for students in the Graduate Group in Archaeology, Classics and History of Art (GGACHA), the GGACHA Steering Committee considers the nominated students for each award and determines each award recipient. For competitive financial support awards for students in the Graduate Group in Science and Mathematics (GGSM), the GGSM Steering Committee considers the nominated students for each award and determines each award recipient. In situations in which where the Steering Committees of the GGACHA and GGSM are unable to determine award recipients, the Graduate Council’s Subcommittee on Graduate Awards will determine the award recipient. For competitive financial support awards available to students in all programs, the Graduate Council’s Subcommittee on Graduate Awards and the Dean of Graduate Studies will consider all students nominated and determine the award recipient.

**Granting and Withdrawal of Awards**

Granting: Awards are offered by the Dean of Graduate Studies. Award offers lapse if not accepted by the deadline set by the Dean, or if the award is accepted but not used in the designated year. In such circumstances, the candidate may re-apply in another year.

Withdrawal: In the case of either unsatisfactory academic work or misconduct that leads to non-continuation in the program, all awards will be canceled. The Dean will notify the student of the termination of awards by a formal letter.

**Review and Approval of Changes in Awards Processes**

The Graduate Council shall review and approve any changes in the above-mentioned processes for making graduate awards.

**4. The Degree of Master of Arts**
Departments

The M.A. degree may be given in the following departments and programs, either as a prerequisite for the doctoral program or as a combined A.B./M.A. degree:

Chemistry; Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology; French; Greek, Latin and Classical Studies; History of Art; Mathematics; Physics.

Candidacy

Prerequisites: The prerequisites for admission to candidacy for the M.A. degree are: (1) an A.B. degree or its equivalent from an American college or university of recognized standing, or a degree or certificate of at least the same standard from a foreign university; (2) preparation that includes such undergraduate work in the candidate’s major and allied departments as the departments shall require.

Qualified students at Bryn Mawr, Haverford, and Swarthmore may undertake graduate work leading to the degree of Master of Arts concurrently with their work toward the A.B., once they have applied to, and been accepted, into Bryn Mawr’s A.B./M.A. program. The application process includes being approved for the program by the Undergraduate Special Cases Committee, creating an approved curricular plan and then separately being admitted to a specific graduate program through the GSAS office. Although the graduate work and the A.B. major work need not be in the same department, it is the graduate department’s prerogative to require the completion of its undergraduate major as part of the requirements for the M.A. degree. While students must arrange to fulfill all requirements for each of the A.B. and M.A. degrees, they are permitted to count a maximum of two advanced undergraduate courses (300-level or higher) presented in fulfillment of the requirements of the A.B. degree as two of the units required for the M.A. degree. As for all GSAS students, graduate credit for the advanced undergraduate courses will be only granted when they are supplemented by additional work in the usual way.

Application for candidacy: All students must make a formal application to become a candidate for the M.A. degree. The application and the program of work approved by the Director of Graduate Studies in the candidate’s home department and the faculty member(s) who supervise the M.A. work or the qualifying paper(s) must be submitted to the GSAS by the deadline published on the website (http://www.brynmawr.edu/gsas/) or in the GSAS Handbook. The student shall be notified in writing of the Dean of Graduate Studies’ decision concerning the application.

General Requirements for the M.A.
Time: The time to completion of the M.A. degree is typically between two and three years. The work for the degree may be spread over several academic years which need not be in succession, but must be completed within a period of five years (60 months).

Program of Study: A minimum of six academic units is required for the M.A. degree. At least two units should consist of graduate seminar or course work. At most two units may be taken in the form of supervised independent work, and at most two units may be taken in upper-level undergraduate courses with supplementary work for graduate credit. At least two-thirds of the required units must be taken at Bryn Mawr College. At most one-third may be taken elsewhere under the auspices of Bryn Mawr College, through an approved Reciprocal Plan or similar approved arrangement.

Further Requirements: Students are also required to complete the languages and special skills requirements set by their home department, a thesis or one or more qualifying papers, and a final examination. These requirements are detailed below.

**Languages and Special Skills Requirements**

Each graduate program has established such requirements in foreign languages and/or special skills as are essential for scholarly work in that discipline. These requirements shall be readily available to prospective and current students. Any changes in these requirements must be approved by the Graduate Council. Individual exceptions to the departmental rules require the approval of the Graduate Council.

Requirements in foreign languages and/or special skills may be met in the following ways:

If a foreign language competency is required by a department, a student must pass a Bryn Mawr College language examination scheduled and administered by the that department. The language examinations consist of two passages of 250-350 words each, chosen by the department, to be translated during a two-hour period. The use of a dictionary either in print or electronic may be permitted for the translation of either or both passages, at the discretion of the department. The examination shall be read by two members of the department. If considered marginal, then a member of the respective foreign language department may be consulted. The final decision will be made by the graduate department after discussion with the external reader. With the consent of the department and of the Dean of Graduate Studies, a student whose native language is not English may be permitted to write a language examination in a language other than English.

At the department’s discretion, a student whose native tongue is not English may offer English for one of the languages that may be required. This proviso does not apply for students whose field of study is the language and the literature of their native tongue. The requirement in English may be met either by certification from the department that the candidate’s English is adequate or by a special examination given by the department, no later than January of the academic year in which the candidate is to take the degree.
For special skills, a student may be required to pass an examination administered by the department.

For either a special skill or language, with prior approval from the department and the Graduate Council, a student may complete course work specifically chosen to complete the requirement by the department in lieu of an examination.

For A.B./M.A. candidates in Mathematics, the successful completion of the language requirement for the Bryn Mawr College A.B. degree will satisfy the language requirement for the M.A. degree.

**Thesis or Major Paper(s) in a Special Field**

Every candidate must present a thesis or one or more qualifying papers in a special field in the subject studied for the M.A. For candidates in residence at Bryn Mawr College, the due date of the paper(s) is set by the department. For candidates away from Bryn Mawr, the due date is 30 days before Commencement of the semester in which the candidate hopes to receive the degree.

The paper(s) shall be read, and approved or rejected, by at least two members of the department or one member of the department and one in an allied department. All papers must be completed to the satisfaction of the department before the candidate is admitted to the final examination.

**Final Examination**

Before the final examination, the M.A. candidate must complete any requirements in languages and/or special skill(s) and must have submitted a thesis or major paper(s) in the special field. The candidate may be enrolled in courses that will count towards the MA requirements during the semester in which she/he will complete the MA requirements.

Every candidate must pass a final examination, which shall test the ability to place the special field in a more general background of the major subject. This examination shall be either written, with four to six hours of examination; or oral, lasting no less than one hour; or written and oral, a written examination of four hours and an oral examination of one hour. An experimental or open-book examination of greater length may be substituted for the written examination. The examination shall be judged by faculty designated by the department, including, at a minimum, the two faculty members who were designated to read the candidate’s paper(s).

The last Tuesday before Commencement at 1 p.m. is the latest time at which grades of candidates for the M.A. degree may be reported to the GSAS Office. For a December degree, the deadlines are the last day of classes in Semester I for the final written examination, and the following day for the reporting of grades.
Unsatisfactory Paper(s) or Examination

A candidate who has submitted an unsatisfactory paper in the special field or who has failed the final examination may, on the recommendation of the department, submit another paper, revise the original, take another examination, or be refused this opportunity. The department shall make a report to the GSAS and the Graduate Council concerning its decision on such cases.

5. The Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Departments

The Ph.D. degree may be given in the following departments:

Chemistry; Classical and Near Eastern Archaeology;
Greek, Latin and Classical Studies;
History of Art; Mathematics; Physics

Candidacy

Prerequisites: Students may apply for candidacy for the Ph.D. degree at any time after completing six units of graduate work, but must be formally accepted as candidates before taking the Preliminary Examinations. In some programs, successful completion of the M.A. degree is required prior to applying for Ph.D. candidacy. If a student has completed a M.A. degree at another institution, the department may elect to waive the M.A. requirement.

Application: To apply for candidacy, students must submit the appropriate Ph.D. candidacy form. The form must be approved and signed by either the faculty member who will be the Dissertation Director, if named, or by the Director of Graduate Studies in the program. The faculty members of the Ph.D. Supervising Committee as well as the areas of examination are specified on the candidacy form. Students in History of Art must also submit a dissertation proposal which must be approved by the entire Department prior to being accepted as a Ph. D. candidate.

Once accepted as candidates for the Ph.D. degree, students must maintain continuous registration until the completion of all requirements for the degree, unless granted a leave of absence.

Dissertation Director: The faculty member directing the candidate’s dissertation research and writing shall take major responsibility for planning the candidate’s program of study, for informing the Director of Graduate Studies and the Supervising Committee of the fields to be offered for
examination, and of the subject of the dissertation. The Dissertation Director shall keep the Director of Graduate Studies and the Supervising Committee informed of any changes in the student’s fields for examination or in the subject of the dissertation. The Dissertation Director shall take major responsibility for supervising the preparation of the dissertation and such changes as may be required by the Supervising Committee at the final examination.

**Supervising Committee:** The Supervising Committee shall have the responsibility of the preliminary examinations and final examination of the dissertation. Both the student and the Director of Graduate Studies / Dissertation Director should seek the advice and aid of the chair of the Supervising Committee when necessary, such as in cases of irreconcilable differences.

The Dean shall formally appoint those members of the student’s Supervising Committee who are recommended on the candidacy form by the Dissertation Director or by the Director of Graduate Studies in the student’s department. The chair of the committee shall be a member of the general faculty outside the student’s department. The other members of the Supervising Committee shall be the Dissertation Director, two other members from either the student’s department(s) or allied department, and one or more additional members of the faculty. In special cases, when the dissertation is to be directed by a faculty member external to the student’s department, he/she shall be appointed to the Supervising Committee and identified as Dissertation Director, but a member of the student’s department shall be designated to serve as Departmental Director of the student’s progress toward the Ph.D.

A scholar not connected with the College who has special competence in the field of the candidate’s chief interest may be added to the Supervising Committee if the Supervising Committee or the student’s department so recommends and the Graduate Council or the Dean of Graduate Studies approves.

**Outside Chair:** The role of the chair of the Ph.D. Supervising Committee is to be an impartial moderator at oral examinations, to insure that examinations are civil and fair, to insure that all requirements are observed and that documentation of examinations is accurate and complete. The student may appeal to the chair in the event of irreconcilable differences with the Dissertation Director. The chair convenes the Supervising Committee before the Ph.D. oral Preliminary Examination or the oral Final Examination if one or more committee members are dissatisfied with the student’s performance.

**Disputes:** If irreconcilable differences arise between the candidate and the Dissertation Director, either one may appeal to the chair of the Supervising Committee, who shall attempt to resolve the matter in consultation with the full committee. If no satisfactory resolution is reached, the matter shall be referred to the Dean of Graduate Studies, who shall bring the case to the Graduate Council for final resolution. Additionally, if at any stage of the work the Supervising Committee does not reach agreement on the candidate’s performance, the Graduate Council shall make the final decision.
General Requirements for the Ph.D.

Time: A minimum of three full years of graduate work or their equivalent beyond that required for the completion of the M.A. degree is required for the Ph.D. degree.

Residency: Successful completion of a minimum of twelve academic units (or the equivalent of two full years of post-baccalaureate study) at or through Bryn Mawr College is required for the Ph.D. degree. Units counted toward the M.A. degree at Bryn Mawr College may also be counted toward the Ph.D. degree if the major field remains the same. Up to four units may be taken at the University of Pennsylvania or at any other institution with which there are approved Reciprocal Plans. In the absence of a formal Reciprocal Plan, the Dean of Graduate Studies may, on occasion, approve the taking of units, not to exceed two, at other institutions, provided that the total amount of external units does not exceed four.

Any exception to the rules concerning the number or distribution of units must be approved by the Graduate Council and will be considered only on the recommendation of the student’s department and when a candidate’s academic preparation is deemed to warrant special consideration.

Program of Study: The course of study is defined by the individual departments.

Further Requirements: Students are also required to complete the languages and special skills requirements set by their department, pass the Preliminary Examinations, complete a dissertation, and pass a final examination. These requirements are detailed below (V. D-G).

Languages and Special Skills Requirements

All candidates for the Ph.D. degree are required to demonstrate mastery of such foreign languages and/or special skills as are necessary to conduct research in the fields of their dissertations. Departments shall determine which languages and/or skills they will require, and these requirements must be submitted to the Graduate Council for approval. Approved languages and/or skills requirements shall be publicly advertised by the GSAS to all candidates for admission and to all students currently enrolled. Departments may not change their requirements without prior approval of the Graduate Council and sufficient notice to all prospective Ph.D. candidates. Mastery of required languages and/or skills must be demonstrated by written examinations or by course work. All languages and/or skills requirements must be met before candidates for the Ph.D. may take the Preliminary Examinations.

When one or more foreign languages are required, the language examination for the Ph.D. degree shall consist of two passages of 250-350 words each, chosen by the department, to be translated during a two-hour period. The use of a dictionary either in print or electronic may be permitted for the translation of either or both passages, at the discretion of the department. The examination shall be read by two members of the department. If considered marginal, then a member of the respective
foreign language department may be consulted. The final decision will be made by the graduate department after discussion with the external reader.

At the department’s discretion, a student whose native tongue is not English may offer English as one of the languages that may be required. The requirement in English may be satisfied by certification from the department that the candidate’s English is adequate.

Except for the substitution of English as provided above, any exception to the stated languages and/or skills requirements of any department requires the approval of the Graduate Council.

**Preliminary Examinations**

General: The Preliminary Examinations are intended to test the candidate’s knowledge and mastery of subjects specified on the candidacy form, exemplified by the candidate’s command of several fields or areas, in addition to the candidate’s power of organization and ability to apply knowledge to new problems. Before taking the Preliminary Examinations, students must have been formally admitted to Ph.D. candidacy and have completed such course work as is deemed necessary by their department or program. Students also shall have satisfied such requirements in foreign languages and special skills as have been established. The Preliminary Examinations must be completed before the dissertation is accepted.

Timing of the Exams: Preliminary Examinations should be completed within a period of four weeks. When an oral examination is included, the period of examination may be extended to five weeks. No Preliminary Examinations are to be scheduled during the thirty days immediately preceding Commencement. Exceptions may be granted by the Dean of Graduate Studies, upon request of the Director of Graduate Studies or Dissertation Director in consultation with chair of the Supervising Committee.

Plan of the Examinations: The fields covered by the examinations will be established by the Director of Graduate Studies or Dissertation Director (if already named) in consultation with the members of the Supervising Committee. A list of the candidate’s fields and the schedule of examinations approved by the Supervising Committee shall be filed by the candidate in advance in the GSAS Office. The Preliminary Examinations may include twelve to twenty hours of written examinations. Except for experimental or open book examinations, no one exam shall exceed four hours in length. An oral examination of one to two hours may be added at the option of the department.

Exceptions: The following preliminary exam procedures have been approved:

Chemistry: The Preliminary Examinations consist of two written examinations accompanied by an oral on the material of these examinations, and an oral defense of one research proposal submitted by the
candidate. A period of longer than five weeks is permitted because of the special form of these examinations.

Clinical Developmental Psychology: The Preliminary Examinations consist of three written examinations and a Major Area Paper. Two of the written examinations require synthesis of the first two years of course work in the areas of General Psychology and Clinical Developmental Psychology, and the third tests mastery of theory and research in a content area to be determined by the student and the student’s research advisor. The written examinations must be completed in a five-week period in Semester I of the student’s third year of enrollment. The Major Area Paper, in an area relevant to the subject of the student’s dissertation research as approved by the research advisor, must be proposed to the student’s Supervising Committee by March 15 of the third year of enrollment and completed by October 15 of the fourth year of enrollment.

Mathematics: The Preliminary Examinations consist of three four-hour written examinations, followed by a one-hour oral examination, and are intended to test the candidate’s breadth of knowledge and understanding of the structure of Mathematics as a whole. Students have two options for the timing of the written examinations: (1) The examinations may be taken in any five-week period of time while classes are in session (except for the final thirty days before Commencement). (2) The examinations may be begun in a specified two-week period late in Semester II and completed in a specified two-week period early in the following Semester I. Dates and times for the second option will be set annually by the Department.

Physics: The Preliminary Examinations may consist of three four-hour examinations, a problem set including twelve hours of working time and a one-hour oral.

Procedure of the Supervising Committee: The members of the Supervising Committee shall read all examinations promptly, and if any of the examinations is unsatisfactory to any member he/she should notify the chair so that it can be determined if the candidate should continue with the Preliminary Examinations. When the written examinations are completed, the chair shall ascertain whether the majority of the committee considers the candidate’s work sufficiently satisfactory to proceed to the oral portion of the examination if there is one. When the examinations include an oral examination, it is conducted by the Supervising Committee and is open to any member of the faculty. In the event of an oral examination, the chair of the Supervising Committee shall ask the committee, in the absence of the candidate, for a statement of the division of time among the examiners and shall be responsible for maintaining the schedule adopted. At the end of the examination, the chair shall give each member of the committee an opportunity to ask additional questions. After the candidate leaves the room, the chair shall ask each member’s opinion of the candidate’s performance.

Results of the Preliminary Examinations: The result of the examinations is to be recorded in the following terms: "Satisfactory"; "Partially Satisfactory" — to be used when some portion of the examination is unsatisfactory; or "Unsatisfactory." The vote of the Supervising Committee shall be recorded on the candidate’s Ph.D. application form and signed by the members of the committee.
committee shall state explicitly on the form when the candidate is to make up any deficiencies and whether by written examination or in some other manner approved by the committee, as appropriate to the seriousness of the deficiency. All deficiencies must be made up before the candidate may submit the dissertation. If the result is "Unsatisfactory," the candidate may be refused permission to continue work for the Ph.D. degree, or may be asked to retake the Preliminary Examinations. No candidate may be permitted to retake the Preliminary Examinations more than once. Preliminary Examinations must be passed satisfactorily within one year of the first written examination. In such unusual circumstances as serious illness, exceptions to this rule may be granted by the Dean of Graduate Studies. If after this time, a student has remaining unsatisfactory performances in any area of the preliminary examinations, he/she may not proceed to complete the degree.

If there is a difference in opinion in the Supervising Committee, the majority vote shall be decisive. The vote of the dissenting members shall be recorded on the candidate’s Ph.D. application form, and they may file a minority report.

After the Supervising Committee has voted, at the conclusion of the oral examination, the chair should inform the candidate of the decision. When the Preliminary Examinations do not conclude with an oral, the vote on the completed Preliminary Examinations shall be determined expeditiously, at a meeting of the full Supervising Committee. In either case, the chair of the Supervising Committee shall return the Ph.D. application form including the signatures of the members of the Supervising Committee to the GSAS Office. The Dean of Graduate Studies shall send a written statement of the decisions of the Supervising Committee to the candidate.

Dissertation

General Requirements: The dissertation is the candidate’s written document that presents the results of the candidate’s independent research in the field of the major subject. It must contain original material, results, or interpretations, and be adjudged suitable for publication. The dissertation shall be written in English with the following exceptions: (1) A student in a language department may, if the department approves, write the dissertation in the language of the department. (2) In other departments a student whose native tongue is not English may, with the permission of the Dissertation Director, the department and Graduate Council, write the dissertation in the language of the candidate.

The dissertation shall conform to the "Guidelines for Candidates for the Ph.D. Degree" available from the GSAS Office.

Six copies of the dissertation shall be submitted (five for the Supervising Committee and one for the GSAS office). They shall be secured in suitable binders and be accompanied by a vita and an abstract of no more than 350 words. A letter recommending that the dissertation be accepted and a brief critical comment from the Dissertation Director must accompany it, or be sent by the director directly to the GSAS Office, before the dissertation submission deadline. The dissertation and the director’s letter shall be submitted to the Supervising Committee through the GSAS Office.
Deadlines: In graduate programs within the Graduate Group in Archaeology, Classics and History of Art (GGACHA) the dissertation shall be submitted no later than 45 days prior to the end of classes of the semester in which the student expects to complete the work for the degree. In graduate programs within the Graduate Group in Science and Mathematics (GGSM), the dissertation shall be submitted no later than 25 days prior to the end of the semester. If a December degree is expected, the dissertation in the GGACHA shall be submitted no later than October 15; in the GGSM it shall be submitted no later than November 5.

If a student wishes to hand in the dissertation and take the Final Examination at other times in the academic year, in the GGACHA the dissertation must be submitted at least six weeks before the proposed date of the examination; in the GGSM it must be submitted at least three weeks before that date. No member of the faculty shall be obligated to read, or advise in connection with, a dissertation at any time except during the academic year.

Procedure of the Supervising Committee: All members of the Supervising Committee shall read the dissertation promptly. If a member of the Supervising Committee considers the dissertation unacceptable, he/she must inform the chair no later than seven days before the Final Examination is scheduled to be held, and a special meeting of the Supervising Committee shall then be called. The Supervising Committee may recommend revisions, which may lead to the postponement of the Final Examination, or may reject the dissertation completely in its present form. If, after full discussion, a majority of the Supervising Committee considers the dissertation provisionally acceptable in substance and general form, the Final Examination may be held.

Final Examination

General Rules: The Final Examination is an oral exam devoted to the dissertation and the general fields covered by the dissertation. It shall be conducted by the Supervising Committee and shall be not less than one hour in length, nor more than three. The Final Examination shall be open to any member of the faculty who wishes to attend.

If any part of the Preliminary Examinations has been taken more than five years (60 months) before the Final Examination, the Final Examination must be both written and oral and must cover one of the general fields or areas offered for the Preliminary Examinations. In this case, the Supervising Committee shall read the written examinations promptly. A waiver of this requirement, the "60-month rule", may be requested by the dissertation director from the Dean of Graduate Studies when there is sufficient evidence of continued engagement in the candidate's filed, such as by publishing scholarly works or employment in the field.

Final Examinations may not be set later than the fourteenth day before Commencement or later than November 25 if a December degree is to be conferred.

Results: At the end of the Final Examination, the Supervising Committee shall take two votes, one on the dissertation and one on the general quality of the examination. The vote on the dissertation shall be "Satisfactory"; "Satisfactory with minor revisions"; or "Unsatisfactory." The vote shall be recorded
on the student’s Ph.D. application form and signed by the members of the Supervising Committee. In the case of a dissertation judged "Unsatisfactory" in its present form, the Supervising Committee shall inform the candidate in writing of the revisions necessary for a reconsideration.

If, after full discussion, more than one member of the Supervising Committee dissents from the opinion of the majority, the question shall be referred to the Graduate Council. There shall be a report from the Supervising Committee to the Dean of Graduate Studies, who shall bring it to the Graduate Council. Another member of the faculty or, by arrangement with the Dean of Graduate Studies, a scholar not connected with the College who is especially competent in the field may be called in.

The vote on the Final Examination is either "Satisfactory" or "Unsatisfactory." If the examination is satisfactory, the candidate shall be informed of the result by the Supervising Committee. If the examination is unsatisfactory, the Dissertation Director shall inform the candidate. The vote shall be recorded on the candidate’s Ph.D. application form and signed by the members of the Supervising Committee. Notification of action on both dissertation and Final Examination shall be sent to the candidate in writing by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Plans for Publication: The chair of the Supervising Committee shall discuss with the candidate and the Dissertation Director at the Final Examination the proposed form of publication of the dissertation.

**Deposit and Publication of the Dissertation**

Deposit: After a dissertation has been accepted, or accepted subject to the changes and revisions voted by the Supervising Committee, a perfect copy of the dissertation containing the required changes and revisions so certified by an accompanying letter from the Dissertation Director, must be deposited with the GSAS no later than four days before Commencement or by December 10 if the degree is to be conferred on December 15. No degree will be granted until the dissertation has been revised to conform to all the recommendations of the Supervising Committee and a perfect copy has been deposited. Guidelines for dissertation preparation are posted on the GSAS website:


Publication: The dissertation must be published according to one of the plans listed below, to be approved by the Dissertation Director and by the chair of the Supervising Committee.

Electronic Submission to proQuest/ETD Administrator

At the time of the final deposit of the perfect copy of the dissertation to GSAS, prior to the conferral of the degree, the student creates an online account with ProQuest/ETD Administrator, uploads the dissertation and pays for the publication of the dissertation electronically though the ProQuest/ETD site. The dissertation is immediately released for publishing unless the students chooses an embargo option.
Publication in Full or in Substantial Part

Electronic submission of the dissertation to ProQuest/ETD Administrator may be waived entirely if, prior to the conferral of the degree, or prior to the end of the two-year holding period, the candidate presents evidence (such as a letter from a publisher accepting the dissertation for publication) of a completed arrangement for the publication of the dissertation in substantial part or in full in a scholarly journal.

At the Time of Publication: If the candidate publishes in a printed work, book, or journal article, two copies shall be deposited with the College. If the candidate publishes electronically, one copy of the file must be deposited with the College. In any of the above cases the publication should include a statement that the study is a dissertation or part of a dissertation accepted by Bryn Mawr College. In exceptional cases, to be approved by the Graduate Council, this statement may be omitted.
GSAS Graduate Student Parental Accommodations Policy

Eligibility

Full time graduate students who are anticipating the birth or adoption of their child are eligible for accommodations or extensions for academic coursework and other requirements, for both the period before and following the arrival of their child. This policy is a parental accommodations policy rather than a leave of absence. A leave of absence could be arranged separately if required (see page 4 in the GSAS Faculty Rules). The parental accommodations policy is available to domestic as well as international students.

Principles

1. Before taking parental accommodations, students will:
   a. notify their research advisor and/or graduate advisor at least three (3) months prior to the start of the parental accommodations period.
   b. consult with their research advisor and/or graduate advisor in order to:
      i. determine what adjustments need to be made for their short-term and long-term academic goals, including but not limited to adjustments to coursework, TA/GA work, exam schedule, and/or research projects.
      ii. affirm their agreement to the details of their parental accommodations arrangements by signing, with their advisor and the Dean of Graduate Studies, a document summarizing the agreed-upon short-term modifications to their academic plan.

2. While taking parental accommodations, students will:
   a. be allowed a period of 8 weeks, normally commencing within 2 weeks of the birth or adoption, during which academic expectations are on hold and the level of participation in their program is determined by the student.
   b. maintain continuing student status
   c. retain health insurance coverage.
   d. retain financial support through academic funding, including but not limited to teaching/graduate assistantships and/or fellowships.

3. After taking parental accommodations, students will:
   a. remain enrolled and seek the previously agreed upon level of work (see 1.b.i.)
   b. be allowed an additional year towards completion of their degree(s) with eligibility for additional funding support.

Exceptions to the above parental accommodations policy may be requested in writing for consideration by the Dean of Graduate Studies.