Ideally, you should complete and defend your dissertation within your funded years (5 years for those with a prior MA or President’s Graduate Research Fellowship; 6 years for those without). At any point in the program, if you have questions or concerns about your timetable for the degree, please do not hesitate to consult with the DGS. All students are especially encouraged to meet with the DGS to discuss their plans for finishing the Ph.D. at the beginning of their penultimate year of funding.

Students who are out of funding are eligible for teaching on the following basis: If you have not defended within your funded years, your progress will be reviewed annually by the Graduate Steering Committee. If the committee approves of your progress, you will remain eligible for whatever teaching is available after all positions have been assigned to those in aid. If the committee doesn’t approve your progress, it will provide you with a detailed plan for the following year, during which you will be eligible for teaching after all positions have been assigned to those in aid as well as to those out of aid but making satisfactory progress. If your progress is not approved at your next annual review, you will be required to leave the program. Please note that the Graduate College requires a student to defend within five years of passing the comprehensive exam.