Below is an outline of an optimal sequence to enable a student who enters our program with a bachelor’s degree and does not pursue a master’s degree to complete a PhD in History in five years. The order and timing of some courses and examinations can be adjusted as needed.

**First Semester:**
Take: one historiography course,  
two other courses in major field.  
Pass first foreign language exam.  
Decide on a supporting field.

**Second Semester:**
Take: one historiography course,  
one other course in major field (preferably a research seminar),  
one course in supporting field.  
(If appropriate, substitute one course in a foreign language.)  
Begin to assemble examining committee for comprehensive qualifying exam in major field.

**Third Semester:**
Take: one course in major field,  
two courses in supporting field.  
Undergo review by the GPC for admission to the doctoral program.

**Fourth Semester:**
Take: two courses in major field,  
one course in supporting field.  
Pass second foreign language exam (if required).

**Fifth Semester:**
Read for comprehensive qualifying exam (register for HIS 393L).

**Sixth Semester:**
Read for comprehensive qualifying exam (register for HIS 393L).  
Take comprehensive qualifying exam.  
Pass third foreign language exam (if required).  
Assemble doctoral committee.

**Seventh Semester:**
Do research for dissertation.  
Take part in dissertation workshop.

**Eighth Semester:**
Do research for dissertation.

**Ninth and Tenth Semesters:**
Write dissertation.  
Defend dissertation.