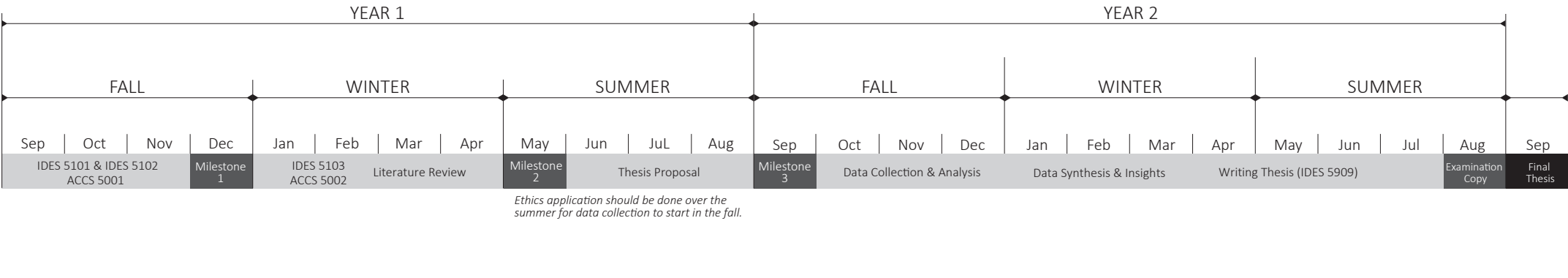


MDES PATH TO COMPLETION



Milestone 1 Statement of Study Interest

Statement of Study Interest is a summary of your research interest that has been narrowed down during the 1st semester. It includes a brief description of your preliminary research questions along with the implication of the potential results of the research. Make sure that your research topic ties to the research areas of your SID supervisor.

This document must be submitted to the MDes Brightspace submission link and emailed to the external co-supervisor (if any) for evaluation by **December 23 in Year 1** (if you don't meet this deadline, it will be difficult to meet the deadline for Milestone 2).

Students must submit the thesis supervisor form no later than September 30.

Milestone 2 Literature Review

Literature Review is an overview and evaluation of the scholarship that exists on a specific topic or research question. It allows students to gain a good perspective and comprehensive overview of their research topic in the literature; and to identify critical points in current theoretical and methodological contributions to a particular topic where their research focus would fit.

This substantial document of the secondary research into the chosen thesis topic areas must be submitted to the MDes Brightspace submission link and emailed to your external co-supervisor (if any) by **May 31 in Year 1** (if you don't meet this deadline, it will be difficult to meet the deadline for Milestone 3).

Milestone 3 Thesis Proposal

Thesis proposal describes what you will investigate, why it is important, and how you will do the research to get your thesis plan approved. It includes the clear research question(s), hypothesis investigated, relevant sources from the literature review, and doable data collection and analysis methods and research plan.

This substantial document must be submitted to the MDes Brightspace submission link and emailed to your co-supervisor (if any) by **September 30 in Year 2** (if you don't meet this deadline, it will be difficult to meet the deadline for the thesis leading to a possible need for extension).

An oral presentation of the thesis proposal will occur in October.

Examination Copy

The examination copy of your thesis must be distributed to the thesis examination board a minimum of **3 weeks before the defence (by mid August, at the latest) in Year 2**.

An oral thesis defense will be scheduled a minimum of 3 weeks after the submission of the examination copy.

The examination board needs to be defined 2 weeks before the distribution of the thesis.

Final Thesis

The deadline of the final thesis submission is usually in **the middle of September** for Fall graduation (date changes yearly).

If the final thesis is not submitted by the given deadline but it is submitted by September 30, graduation will take place in the Winter semester, but without having to pay ongoing tuition fees (i.e., withdrawal from Fall term with a full fee adjustment).

Students must successfully satisfy each milestone requirement before proceeding. If a milestone is unsatisfied, the re-submission date will be negotiated with the Graduate Program Coordinator and the student's thesis supervisor.