Doctoral Degree Requirements

Admission to Candidacy

In order to be admitted to doctoral candidacy, students must meet the following requirements at USF
1. admission to a doctoral program
2. appointment of a Doctoral Committee ,
3. attainment of an overall and degree program Grade Point Average (GPA) of 3.00 at USF at the time of candidacy. (All "I" and "M" grades, including "IF" and "MF", must be cleared before candidacy may be finalized.)
4. successful completion of a qualifying examination
5. certification by the Doctoral Committee that the above qualifications have been successfully completed.

The Admission to Candidacy form should be submitted for approval during the semester that the qualifying exams were completed, but no later than the semester following the successful completion of the exam. The form will be approved by the Dean of the College and forwarded to the Dean of the Graduate School for final approval. Doctoral Candidacy is effective as of the day that the Graduate School approves of the request and changes the student's status to 6C. For procedures and processing deadlines refer to the Graduate School website at www.grad.usf.edu

Once candidacy status is approved, students with approved candidacy are eligible to enroll in dissertation hours (7980) in the semester that immediately follows the last business day of the approval window. For example, students approved during the Fall approval window may enroll in the Spring. Students approved during the Spring approval window may enroll in the summer and students approved during the Summer approval window may enroll in the Fall. **Students may NOT enroll in dissertation hours prior to being admitted to doctoral candidacy**.

Each degree program has a required number of dissertation hours for completion of the degree. Departments may, with College approval, apply Directed Research hours toward the total number of dissertation hours required. Directed Research hours shall not exceed 50% of the dissertation hour requirement. No directed research hours will be converted to dissertation hours (i.e. a directed research course dropped and a dissertation course added) prior to or during the approval window. *For more information refer to Enrollment Requirements in the Academic Policies section.*