

QUICK REFERENCE • RESEARCH DOCTORAL STUDIES

Colloquium Requirements for Professors and Students

Colloquia are department-wide discussions of selected readings that serve a critical mentoring and academic formation function in the PhD program. They are distinct from seminars in that they do not require major research assignments. Students must complete four colloquia in their major area across their program.

Purpose and Goals

- Providing ongoing opportunities for PhD students and faculty to interact with one another in a constructive environment that fosters collegial scholarly development.
- Guiding students through reading in essential areas of knowledge within their department's field, filling gaps and helping to prepare students for comprehensive examinations.

Faculty Responsibilities

- Select and assign readings that cover essential and broad areas of knowledge within the departmental field, appropriate for doctoral-level engagement.
- Facilitate substantive discussion that draws out students' understanding, challenges assumptions, and models scholarly dialogue.
- Host prospectus hearings during colloquium time for residential students whose supervisor has determined their prospectus draft is ready for departmental assessment (in coordination with the department chair).
- Attend and participate, offering expertise and correction as appropriate to guide the discussion.
- Evaluate student participation consistent with the graded expectations of the course.

Student Responsibilities

- Complete all assigned readings before the session.
- Come prepared to engage critically with the reading material — not merely to summarize, but to analyze, question, and contribute.
- Participate actively in discussion, demonstrating doctoral-level engagement with the texts and with peers' contributions.
- Treat the colloquium as preparation for comprehensive examinations: the readings and discussions are chosen precisely to build the broad knowledge base exams require.

- Engage respectfully and collegially with fellow students and professors, modeling the kind of scholarly community the colloquium is designed to build.

Scheduling and Format

- Residential students participate in department colloquia held on campus every Wednesday from 2:30-4:30 pm.
- Modular students participate in colloquia by attending a one-day, on campus meeting at end of a semester.
- Colloquia do not involve the major research papers or writing assignments characteristic of seminars.
- Double-major students complete four colloquia in their primary concentration and four in their secondary concentration (eight total).

Research Doctoral Studies Office | Norton Hall, Room 157 | rds@sbts.edu | 502-897-4119