Art and Architectural History PhD Program

Qualifying Paper Guidelines

Approved by the Graduate Committee 4/15/2014

- Students entering with the B.A. will be asked to develop one of their first-year seminar papers into a polished piece, based on original research, of approximately 30 pages in length.

- The student should seek out criticism from the professor for whom the paper was written, his or her advisor, and other relevant faculty members, and then make judicious use of those comments in the final revision. It is expected that substantial improvement and revision take place between the draft submitted for the seminar and the one submitted to the Graduate Committee.

- The idea of the QP is not only to give a student the experience of working on a piece of writing over a period of time that extends beyond a semester, and of consulting with multiple professors in the process of doing so, but also to create a polished piece of writing that can serve as a writing sample for major fellowship applications, which typically are submitted early in the fall semester.

- Subject to the assessment of the student's advisor, the QP may form the basis of a publication in a scholarly journal.

- The QP should be approved by the student's PhD advisor and submitted to the Graduate Committee for approval.