

USC Dornsife

Dana and David Dornsife
College of Letters, Arts and Sciences

PhD Learning Objectives - Humanities

USC Dornsife Ph.D. students in the Humanities are admitted to a five-year program that typically consists of three years of fellowship support and two years of graduate assistantship training.

A Ph.D. in the Humanities at Dornsife offers students the highest form of training in rigorous thought and analytical writing in their fields of study, and guidance in the development of a productive, active research program, contributing to the advance of the field. Ph.D. students in the Humanities at Dornsife also begin to practice and develop as teachers and develop the concrete skills that will become essential in a career as a college or university professor.

Learning Objectives

- Disciplinary Knowledge: The coursework stage of the program gives students an opportunity to master the fundamental knowledge of the field and to explore their interests and begin to decide the focus of their further studies.
- Teaching Competence: When religion PhD students start as a Teaching Assistant, they attend an orientation class before beginning. In addition, they are required to enroll in REL 593 Practicum in Teaching the Liberal Arts.
- Research Competence: Students engage in and conduct original research
- Written and Oral Communication: Students show proficiency in oral and written presentation of original scientific research – qualifying exams and are eligible to receive their Masters and go on to PhD candidacy
- Capstone/Dissertation: In PhD candidacy, students produce a capstone project – dissertation (an extended project which demonstrates the student's ability to perform research at a level that makes a genuine contribution to the field) and a successful defense.
- Professionalization: Religion students are required to enroll in REL 592 Professionalization Proseminar in Religious Studies. Students are able to present their research and written works at conferences. This helps our students network with other students with similar interests, as well as develop and polish their skills in effectively presenting their research. It also helps develop the same skills that

are important for successful publication, which pays off in the many articles our students are now publishing before they complete the degree or apply for jobs.