Typical Action Plan for a Graduate Career

This is a general example of a typical course outline. For more specific details, please refer to the Field Requirements and the Ph.D. Rules and Guidelines.

*Skills courses refer to game theory/formal modeling, econometrics, foreign languages, or electives (lower division foreign language courses do not count toward PhD credits)

**First Year**

**Fall**
- 203A – Analytic Theory I
- 204B – Quantitative Methods I
- Field Requirement or Skills Course*
- Integrated Workshop

**Winter**
- 204A – Research Design
- Field Requirement or Skills Course*
- Field Requirement or Skills Course*
- Integrated Workshop

**Spring**
- 203B – Analytic Theory II
- Field Requirement or Skills Course*
- Field Requirement or Skills Course*
- Integrated Workshop

*Key Objectives:* Complete at least nine courses and to start writing a seminar paper.

**Second Year**

**Fall**
- Field Requirement
- Skills Course*
- Substantive Course
- Integrated Workshop

**Winter**
- Field Requirement
- Skills Course*
- Substantive Course
- Integrated Workshop

**Spring**
- Field Requirement
- Skills Course*
- Substantive Course/Directed Reading
- Integrated Workshop

*Key Objectives:* Complete at least eighteen courses, finish seminar paper, and pass general comprehensive exam.
**Third Year**

**Fall**
- Substantive Course
- Skills Course*
- Integrated Workshop

**Winter**
- Substantive Course
- Skills Course*
- Integrated Workshop

**Spring**
- Substantive Course
- Skills Course*
- Integrated Workshop

*Key Objectives*: Select a Prospectus Advisor at the start of the year, organize a Dissertation Committee, defend the prospectus, and advance to candidacy by year’s end. Students are strongly encouraged to continue taking substantive and skills courses.

**Fourth Year**

**Fall**
- Independent Research on Dissertation
- Apply for grants/research funding
- Defend Prospectus (if haven’t already done so)
- Integrated Workshop

**Winter**
- Independent Research on Dissertation
- Integrated Workshop

**Spring**
- Independent Research on Dissertation
- Integrated Workshop

*Key Objectives*: Advance to candidacy (if have not already), conduct research for dissertation. Some students may do field research or run experiments. Students must advance to candidacy by the end of the 4th year!

**Fifth/Sixth Year**

- Dissertation Research/Field Work
- Write and Defend Dissertation
- Job Search

*Key Objectives*: Complete dissertation, defend before your committee, and enter the job market.