

FOOD SYSTEMS PH.D.

All students must meet the Requirements for the Doctor of Philosophy Degree

OVERVIEW

The Ph.D. in Food Systems combines a comprehensive investigation of food systems and a commitment to developing methods for solving the current problems of the food system through a cohort intensive experience. Every year, the food systems cohort will work together to address problems and devise potential solutions. Students then move towards disciplinary depth and mastery by designing a course of study with a dissertation committee and developing a research proposal. Students will also engage in independent research.

SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

Requirements for Admission to Graduate Studies for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

There are two ways for a potential Ph.D. candidate to pursue this program. First, a student with a BA/BS can apply to the Ph.D. program. Second, a student can apply to the PhD after completing an M.A. or M.S. in an allied field, either at the University of Vermont or at another institution.

Minimum requirements include:

- GPA of 3.00 or higher
- TOEFL or IELTS exam scores must be submitted if you are an international student.
- Completion of a college-level statistics course. If this information is not clearly listed on a college transcript, you will need to provide additional documentation as evidence that you have fulfilled this requirement.
- A letter of support from a Food Systems Faculty member who agrees to serve as primary advisor during enrollment in the PhD Program.

Minimum Degree Requirements

75 credits, including a minimum of 30 hours of graded coursework and 20 credits of supervised dissertation research.

Requirement Description		Credits
Required Courses:		
FS 6400	Food Systems & Society	3
FS 6450	Food Systems & Science	3
FS 6475	Food Systems & Policy	3
FS 6520	Research Design & Methodology	3
FS 7491	Doctoral Dissertation Research	minimum of 20 credits

EDLP 7090	Dissertation Writing Seminar	1-3
or FS 6600	Dissertation Writing Seminar	
Students must also take a minimum of 9 credits of methodology coursework in consultation with advisor that represent a variety of methodological and research design approaches, such as FS 6350, CDAE 6510, EDRM 6310, and CSYS 6020. Consult with advisor for complete list.		
Students must also take FS 6810 - Issues and Solutions Seminar 2 times during their course of study. This is a 1-credit seminar.		2

Comprehensive Examination

The comprehensive examination is a tool to evaluate the progress of each student and ensure that they are prepared to proceed toward the doctorate degree.

Phase 1 is an oral exam that tests the student’s ability to read, analyze and synthesize scholarly knowledge across disciplines as well as to design a research-based response to a specific food systems issue or problem.

Phase 2 includes two steps: a dissertation pre-proposal and proposal submission. The form, content and timeline will be explained to the student by their advisor and will follow guidelines set forth by the Student Development & Evaluation Committee, in collaboration with the student’s dissertation committee.

Requirements for Advancement to Candidacy for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy

Maintain a 3.00 GPA in designated first and second year courses and successful completion of the comprehensive exam.