

Pacifica Graduate Institute

M.A./Ph.D. in Mythological Studies

Program Goals and Student Learning Outcomes

Mythology and Religious Traditions

1. Interpret the primary myths and rituals of a variety of religious and cultural traditions.

Myth and Literature

2. Interpret the archetypal, symbolic, and mimetic aspects of literature.

Depth Psychology and Culture

3. Critically apply the hermeneutics of depth psychology.
4. Interpret the mythic themes and dynamics that are present in contemporary events and popular culture.

Research and Scholarly Writing

5. Critically evaluate and utilize scholarly approaches.
6. Critically evaluate cultural assumptions, especially those pertaining to diversity.

Time to Completion is a measure that is monitored by the Department of Education (DOE) to ensure that students are completing the requirements of the degree in a reasonable time frame. The analysis and summary are updated annually.

[MA/PhD Completion Rates 2012-2013](#)

Capstones with Transition Points

Capstone evaluations and any gateway transition points provide key evaluations throughout the program. Here students demonstrate individual achievement of the learning outcomes.

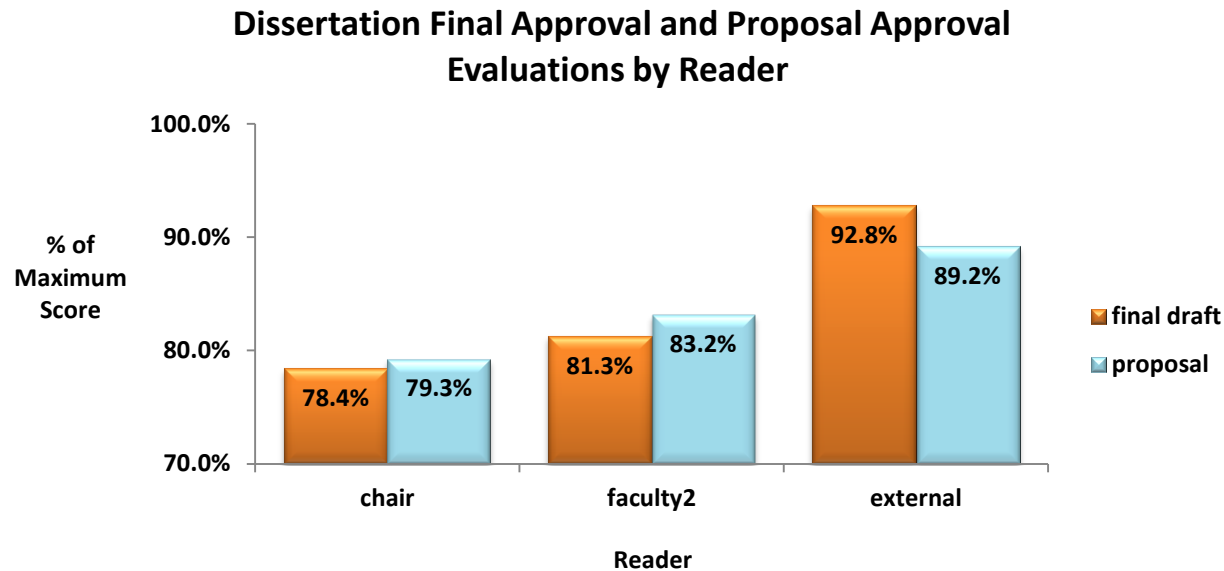
1. Written Comprehensive Exam, completed at the end of the second year of coursework. Passing is required to continue on to the third year.

2. Concept Paper, completed during the Spring Quarter of the third year of coursework. Approval is required to continue on to dissertation writing.
3. Dissertation Proposal Approval, completed by each dissertation committee member when the proposal is approved.
4. Dissertation Final Approval, completed by each dissertation committee member when the complete dissertation is approved.

Faculty Council members evaluate the effectiveness of the program through Capstone Review Reports that aggregate individual scores into an annual summary. Planning that may include curriculum or teaching adjustments is then developed from any areas that indicate the need for more attention.

Myth Program Dissertation Final Approval and Dissertation Proposal Approval Evaluations 2010-2013

The two final capstones for the Myth Program doctoral students are the Dissertation Proposal Approval and the Dissertation Final Approval. A total of 35 Dissertation Final Approval evaluations and 19 Dissertation Proposal Approval evaluations were made during the 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years. Three readers – the student’s chair, a second faculty reader, and an external reader – evaluated each student’s Final Draft or Dissertation Proposal. **All 35 students had their Dissertation Final Drafts accepted. All 19 students had their Dissertation Proposals accepted.**



Myth Program Comprehensive Exam Results 2010-2013

Students enrolled in the MA/PhD Mythological Studies Program take a Comprehensive Exam during the second year of matriculation. The exam is one of the program's capstone projects. Students must attain a minimum score of 70 out of 100 possible on each of the three exam questions to receive the MA degree. Continuation into the third year of coursework is contingent upon a passing score of 80 on all three exam essays.

The exam questions cover the following topics:

- Question 1: Mythology and Religious Tradition
- Question 2: Myth and Literature
- Question 3: Depth Psychology and Culture

One hundred seven second-year students took the comprehensive exam in the 2009-10, 2010-11, 2011-12 and 2012-13 academic years. All 107 achieved an MA-pass score; 106 of the 107 achieved a score sufficient to continue toward a Ph.D. These results are regularly reviewed by program faculty as evidence of student learning outcome achievement. The scores reflect grading differentiation and academic rigor as an important aspect of ongoing teaching and curriculum development.

