

# Abbreviated Calendar

## Topics for monthly triad meetings

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### August (Advisor-initiated)

Establish contact for introductions; discuss fall course selections with attention to student's broader goals and core course requirements. Students should prepare a list of courses of interest. Meetings should be scheduled for September and the rest of the semester; early grant applications may be discussed if applicable.

### September (Advisor-initiated)

Using the Developing Shared Expectations worksheet in the appendix, the triad should clarify expectations for the advising relationship. The triad should also brainstorm goals and create an initial timeline for the first year, including planning for summer research. Additionally, the discussion should outline program milestones, MA, doctoral and subfield requirements, and the process and timeline for advancing to candidacy. Course selection for Winter should be considered in addition to tentative plans for applying for external grants.

### October (Student-initiated)

Students create "goal-setting letters" to share with their mentors at the October meeting. These letters should consider the student's academic and research goals for the year, including summer, and how these goals are grounded in meaningful scholarship. The letters should be discussed collaborating during the October meeting. Students should also include content related to grant writing and their ideas about preliminary research. Finalized letters will be submitted to the Graduate Office and retained on file for the Annual Review Letter writing process.

### November (Advisor-initiated)

The November advising conversation should focus on some course selection for the Winter semester, final papers, grant writing, the student's research interests, and anthropology as a four-field discipline.

### December (Student-initiated)

As students continue to work on final papers, the December advising conversation should focus on finalizing course selection for the upcoming semester and whether final papers will be applicable contenders for the Second Year Review. Students writing final papers or projects or applying for external grants should discuss their writing with their advisors, as well as take advantage of on-campus writing resources, such as [the Sweetland Writing Center](#) and [library resources](#).

### **January (Student-initiated)**

January's advising conversation should begin with reflection and reevaluation. If desired, the student and advisors may revisit some of their answers from the Developing Shared Expectations worksheet and the student's goal-setting letter. Updates should be shared with the Graduate Office to show the progression of the individual mentoring relationship. The January discussion should also focus on a summer research plan development, as Rackham's Summer Funding requires degree progress from the start of May to the end of August. Remember to keep in mind that although many external summer funding application deadlines fall in January or February, it's essential for students to also check with the Graduate Office to make sure that external funding will not impact their Rackham Summer Funding.

### **February (Student-initiated)**

Planning for summer should continue as expectations and timelines are established by creating a solid timeline, crafting detailed research questions, and determining fieldwork methods. All travel logistics, including the IRB, should begin.

### **March (Student-initiated)**

The March advising meeting will cover *critical* upcoming tasks and deadlines. This will include selecting Fall courses for the next academic year and planning funding for the second year. Additionally, advisors and students must make progress on planning summer fieldwork, including logistics and research questions. Final plans for summer are due in mid-April for an early May payment.

### **April (Student-initiated)**

April's advising conversation should focus on finalizing courses for the upcoming Fall semester, Winter final papers, finalizing and submitting summer research plans, and finalizing mentorship beyond the first year.

### **May (Student-initiated)**

In May, students and advisors should discuss end-of-term examinations and final papers, ensure summer plans are finalized, and discuss the student's overall experience of Michigan in their first academic year.

### **June-August (Summer Research)**

Students and their advisors will be in the field over the summer. Rackham Summer funding will be disbursed monthly, with the first payment in early May. The department and Rackham will require a summary of summer activities. The expectations set by the triad for the student will be followed as everyone conducts their own research. The Director of Graduate Studies (DGS) and Graduate Office will continue supporting students during the summer.