| YEAR 1: FALL | * Start accumulating evidence that you are an NC resident  
* Take 3 courses  
* M.A. foreign-language requirement (reading knowledge, 1 language — must be a Relevant Language for students in the Hispanic Linguistics MA-PhD program).  
* Look for an M.A. project topic. (No such thing as too early!) |
| YEAR 1: SPRING | * If you are interested in being a teaching assistant, be sure to let the Department Chair (Misha) know that at the start of the semester.  
* Take 3 courses  
* Find a thesis advisor |
| SUMMER | * Start work on M.A. research prospectus.  
* Follow up on first-year final projects. Can you make any of them publishable or presentable?  
* Apply for North Carolina residency if eligible. |
| YEAR 2: FALL | * Take 3 courses  

* **Thesis option:**  
  Form an MA committee (advisor + 2)  
  Finish thesis prospectus.  
  MA orals (prospectus defense +)  

* **Research-paper option** (and all Hisp. Lx. MA-PhD students):  
  Find two faculty sponsors.  
  Write and defend proposal.  

* If applying to PhD programs, you have till about December to maximize your competitiveness. |
| YEAR 2: SPRING | * No courses, just “thesis credit” or “thesis substitute credit”  
* Research, write, and defend thesis or research paper.  
* Finish revisions to thesis or paper, if any. (This often slops over into summer.) “Apply to graduate” in Connect Carolina.  
* Apply for jobs.  
* Hispanic Linguistics MA-PhD students: Write to the Director of Graduate Studies in the Romance Studies department to ask to be “term activated” in ROMS. |