Dissertation Timeline

Creating a timeline to complete your dissertation will help to keep you on track. Creating the timeline when you are going into Candidacy (and adjusting as necessary) will give you a reasonable sense of when you will complete your degree.

Working in reverse:

1. Choose the semester you wish to graduate and identify the deadlines to upload your Dissertation and deliver your paperwork to the Graduate Programs Office
2. Count back at least 3 or 4 weeks from the deadline to plan the dates for your defense and final corrections.
3. At least three weeks prior to defense, your full committee must receive a complete copy of your draft
4. Working backwards, plan when you will deliver each dissertation chapter/component to your main advisor, taking into account how long it will take them to send you comments and corrections.
5. Remember that it may take several iterations for your advisor to agree that the draft is complete and ready to send to your entire committee
6. Once you have created a tentative timeline, meet with advisor to go over it and adjust according to their schedule.
   - It is highly recommended that you discuss with your advisor how long you should expect them to take to provide feedback on each component of your dissertation. It is fairly typical to allow your advisor 3-4 weeks to review components of significant length.
   - While you wait for comments/corrections on one component, you should plan to be working on other sections.