Timeline

There are various aids to developing a timeline.

On.Track electronic time manager:

Available to postgraduate students and mentors registered at Stellenbosch University is an electronic timeline (On.track). This is a project management tool that enables students to complete their research study or thesis in the allocated time. This is a useful tool.

Registering for On.track is simple on this website:
http://www0.sun.ac.za/ontrack/login.php

• Register using your SU username and password
• Fill in your details
• Assign a mentor to your account
• Fill in your registration date
• Fill in your planned completion date

There is a video available on line at the Stellenbosch University Postgraduate and International student website to guide you through registration.

An example of a more traditional way of representing your planned timeline:

2013	April	May	Jun	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Finalisation of research protocol	Draft 1 10 April 2013	Draft 2 10 May 2013	Draft 3 7 June 2013	Draft Final 5 July 2013					
Submit documents for Ethics approval [Set up Database]									
Obtain Health Department permission									
Implement work plan									
Preparing scientific reports, Presentation of the results									
Submission of manuscript to scientific journal									2014

What about a time line for a young researcher to complete their study within one year?

This is not a suggested timeline to follow but gives you an idea if you want to complete your study within 1 year of how tight the schedule has to be.

Month 1:   Consider your research idea
             Review the literature
             Approach a mentor
Month 2:   Develop your research question
             Consult with a biostatistician
             Write your research proposal
             Present your proposal to the Departmental committee
Month 3   Submit your research proposal to the Human Research Ethics
             Committee (HREC)
             Develop your data collection tools.
Month 4   Get a reply form the Human Research Ethics Committee
             Respond to any quires from the HREC
Month 5-8:   Collect your data
Month 9:   Clean your data set
             Analyze your data set
Month 10:   Write the first draft of the article/thesis
             Respond to the suggestions from your mentor
Month 11:   Complete the writing of the article/thesis
             Submit your article thesis
Month 12:   Respond to the examiner's/reviewer's comments
             Resubmit
             Graduate!!!!!

Gie, R., & Beyers, N. (2014). Getting started in clinical research: Guidance for junior researchers. Cape Town: Department of Paediatrics and Child Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, Stellenbosch University.