

SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

Students are expected to meet two standards in their course of study:

- Satisfactory Performance refers to the requirement of minimum grade performance in course work, and the passage of the required oral examination.
- Satisfactory Progress refers to the speed and timeliness of progression through course work and exams.

A student whose performance or progress is not satisfactory is subject to dismissal from the program, and, in general, must petition to remain in the program. Even in instances in which the petition process is waived or petitions are approved, students are expected to get back on schedule to meet satisfactory progress standards or to petition to reschedule their academic time line. Students are responsible for discussing with their academic advisers any circumstances that will prevent their meeting academic progress standards.

Students funded on Graduate Assistantships are held to additional Satisfactory Performance standards, and may have the Satisfactory Progress standards more strictly enforced. The Department must assure that assistantship funds are being invested in high-performing students who are progressing efficiently through the program requirements.

Satisfactory Performance Standards

Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average across all ETST courses and a 3.0 grade point average across all elective courses. Failure to meet the minimum GPA requirements will result in academic probation and, if not rectified, dismissal from the program.

Students funded on Graduate Teaching Assistantships is expected to meet a 3.50 GPA; in addition, a grade below B in any required course will trigger a review of the student's overall record and of whether continuation of support is merited.

Graduate students must pass the prescribed examination. The requirement is the final Master's examination, which either is the defense of the thesis for Plan A, or completion of the paper process for Plan B. Only two attempts are allowed for each exam. Two failures on an exam will lead to dismissal from the program.

Satisfactory Progress Standards

The standard expectations for satisfactory progress include the following:

- In general, graduate students are expected to take nine credits of regular courses each semester until all course work has been completed. In some semesters, independent study credits may be approved in place of a regular course.
- Exceptions to the nine-credit rule include: (a) students in later semesters, who have completed all offered course work and are awaiting the offering of field and elective courses, may take less than nine credits; (b) students who are

privately funded and are pursuing the degree on a part-time basis may follow a plan approved by their advisor.

- Fulltime MA students are expected to complete the MA course requirements in no more than three semesters. The final oral examination should be no later than the fourth semester.

Students who fail to progress and complete requirements within this time frame may be dismissed from the program. Students who cannot meet the satisfactory progress standards may at any time ask their academic adviser to co-sign a petition to the Chair, to reschedule their academic time line in light of their specific situations. This petition should be submitted to the Coordinator of Graduate Studies who will submit it to the Graduate Program Committee for advisory comment before passing it on to the Chair for a decision. Such petitions may involve an extension of the time period in which the student is expected to complete the degree. This may apply to students who must take English courses as they begin the graduate program or who must take courses to refurbish their skills in ethnic studies. It may also include students who want to pursue a graduate degree on a part-time basis or who want to take a leave of absence from graduate study. Such students should also consult the Graduate and Professional Bulletin for Graduate School requirements for continuous enrollment, readmission, and time limits.

Funding Limits for Internally Funded Students

Satisfactory Progress standards imply limitations on the number of semesters the Department will support students on assistantships which provide tuition support. In particular:

- The Department intends assistantship support to be targeted mainly at incoming MA students. The maximum term of funding for an MA student will be 3 semesters.

Students not funded by the Department who expect to apply for funding at a later time should be aware that their performance in relation to the progress standards would be a factor in the Department's consideration of their subsequent applications for funding.

The faculty are very supportive of the Department's graduate students and make every effort to create a collegial atmosphere in which young scholars can develop. The faculty realize that individual circumstances vary and that good students may on occasion encounter academic problems. Evaluation of student performance and progress is conducted on a case-by-case basis and the faculty are aware of the responsibility they have to exercise judgment in this regard. However, students must stay fully aware of the standards, of their academic responsibilities with respect to those standards, and of the normal consequences of falling short of the standards.