

EEB Graduate Student Ontogeny Targets and deadlines

	Target	Deadline	University rules
Advisory committee formed	2 nd or 3 rd semester	end of 3 rd semester	
Plan of Study* filed	4 th semester	Before the general exam	Before 12 credits are completed**
General examination taken	4 th semester	5 th semester	Within 5 years of commencing doctoral study (4 years if entry with a related Master's); no later than 8 months prior to completion
Dissertation proposal*** approved	5 th semester	6 th semester	Should occur no later than 6 months prior to degree completion
Dissertation defense	end of 5 th year	continued support beyond the 5 th year is contingent on student progress	Degree must be completed <i>after</i> at least 3 years of study beyond baccalaureate (2 years beyond Master's in related subject) and <i>within</i> 8 years of commencing doctoral study (7 years if entry with a related Master's).

Advancement to Candidacy: Advancement to candidacy requires an approved plan of study, successful completion of the general examination, departmental review of the dissertation prospectus and approval of the Dissertation proposal by the Executive Committee of the Graduate Faculty Council. Note: Applications for the NSF DDIG are required to be PhD candidates. Thus you should ensure that your proposal is completed sufficiently far in advance of the grant deadline.

Approval of Dissertation Proposal (~10 pages): Students, in consultation with their advisory committee, may select one of two options for approval of the dissertation prospectus.

Option 1: The Department Head will select two anonymous reviewers (who are not members of the student's advisory committee) to evaluate the prospectus.

Option 2: After completion of the written prospectus, the graduate student will present and defend the prospectus to a faculty committee including their advisory committee and at least two other faculty members.

Adequate Progress and Further Support

In judging whether a student is making adequate progress towards his or her degree, and thus should be awarded continued TA funding, the Graduate Admissions and Awards Committee will consider the following:

- (1) Timely progress through the graduate student ontogeny, including forming an advisory committee, passing the general exam, submission and approval of a dissertation prospectus and continued progress on dissertation research
- (2) Successful completion of attempted coursework
- (3) Evaluation by the student's advisory committee

Students in the following circumstances are likely to be judged to be making inadequate progress:

- (1) Any student who has not completed the requirements for advancement to candidacy by the end of the third year.
- (2) Any student who has not finished incomplete coursework by the end of the semester following the one in which the incomplete was received.
- (3) Any student judged not to be making adequate research progress for a sustained period of time by their advisory committee.

Funding is typically offered for 5 years for Ph.D. students and 2 years for M.S. students. At the discretion of the Graduate Admissions and Awards Committee, with the support of the Ph.D. advisor, and with a clear plan for completion of the dissertation in the near future, funding may be continued for additional semesters. If the advisory committee and Graduate Admissions and Awards Committee agree that a student is not making adequate progress, and there are not extenuating circumstances, then continued TA support will not be granted.

NOTES

Grad school forms (e.g., Plan of Study, Examination reports, Dissertation Proposal, etc.) are available at <http://grad.uconn.edu/forms.html>

***Plan of study:** this document is available at the grad school forms website. It is a list of your completed and planned coursework that you are doing for your degree.

** "The plan of study must be prepared, signed by the student and the members of the advisory committee, and submitted to the Graduate School for approval by the Executive Committee of the Graduate Faculty Council when the student has completed not more than twelve credits of course work to be applied to the degree. The *student may not take the general examination before the plan of study has been fully approved*. Failure to present the plan on time may prolong the period of study for the degree. Before formulating and signing the plan, the major advisor should review a set of transcripts of all undergraduate and graduate work the student has taken. The advisory committee may require that the student take an exploratory examination to guide it in formulating the plan of study."

*****Dissertation proposal** (aka prospectus) includes:

1. The completed and signed Dissertation Proposal Approval form (with an attached copy of current IRB approval for human subjects and/or IACUC approval for animal subjects to be used in the research)
2. An accurate title
3. A concise statement that includes (a) the purpose, importance, and novelty of the study; (b) methods and techniques to be used; (c) availability and location of research facilities; and (d) a statement concerning the use of any human or animal subjects that are involved in the research
4. A selected bibliography.