

PHD Students LANDMARK EVENT NOTICE SYSTEM

In an effort to promote timely progress towards degree completion by PhD students, the Graduate School suggests the implementation of a Landmark Event Notice System. With input from Graduate Faculty Council, a 'normal or expected' length of time from the start of a PhD program will be determined for the following landmark events:

1. Comprehensive/Qualifier Exam (perhaps after 1 – 1.5 years)
2. Proposal Defense (perhaps after 2 years)

Doctoral students will be e-mailed at the beginning of the appropriate semester encouraging them to complete their comprehensive/qualifier exams in the upcoming semester. Those who have not completed the exams will be e-mailed at the end of subsequent semesters with progressively stronger encouragement.

E-mail notification can also be sent to the advisors of students approaching the landmark event 'normal' timing as well as those who have passed the 'normal' timing.

A list of all students who are approaching or who have passed the 'normal' timing can also be sent to the graduate director, graduate assistant and department chair/dean of the appropriate department/school each semester.

Graduate Faculty Council input is sought on the 'normal/expected' time for these landmark events and on the individuals who should be notified of students approaching and who have passed these times (advisor, graduate director, graduate assistant, department chair/dean).

Additional Questions for Input

1. Currently the rule is that students must complete their comprehensive exam(s) "within five years of entry and two terms before the final oral defense" Addition language in the Graduate Catalog states "It is recommended that the comprehensive exam be given after about two years of doctoral study and following completion of all course work required by the Advisory Committee. The examination will be given after the applicant has completed any modern language requirement and at least two terms prior to scheduling the final oral examination." The Graduate Catalog does not specify recommended timing for the proposal defense but says the D6 form (Approval of Dissertation Proposal) "should be a simple statement of your research goal and plan of attack. (This is sometimes the oral part of the comprehensive exam)"
 - a) Is the time limit for the comprehensive exam appropriate? What is an appropriate time limit for the proposal defense?
 - b) What penalties are appropriate for those who fail to comply? (e.g. termination of funding, dismissal?)

2. Currently the rule is that students must complete their degree within 8 years of enrollment
 - a) Is this appropriate?
 - b) Should there be a limit for how long students can continue without retaking an exam?/coursework?