

# SATISFACTORY ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE AND SATISFACTORY PROGRESS

Effective August 2009

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 series of written and oral examinations.
- § 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 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 advisors, and bringing to the attention of the Coordinator of Graduate Studies, any circumstances that may prevent their meeting academic progress standards.

## **Satisfactory Performance Standards**

Graduate students must maintain a 3.0 grade point average across all Econ courses, a 3.0 grade point average across all regular courses, a 3.0 GPA in all regular and non-regular courses combined. Regular courses are distinct from independent or group study, open content seminars, thesis or dissertation credits, study abroad, supervised college teaching, internships, or any courses graded on a pass/fail basis. Failure to meet the minimum GPA requirements will result in academic probation, loss of teaching assistantship if relevant and, if not rectified, dismissal from the program.

Graduate students must pass the prescribed set of examinations. For MA students the requirement is the final Master's examination, which is the defense of the thesis. For PhD students the requirements include the Qualifying Exam, the preliminary oral exam, and the final oral exam (dissertation defense). 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:

- § Graduate students are expected to take at least nine credits of regular courses each semester until all course work has been completed. In some semesters, a student may take independent study credits instead of regular course credits, but the student and his/her advisor should be mindful of the required credits in regular courses and the satisfactory progress standards.
- § Students are expected to complete core courses within the first semesters of the program. This includes (if relevant) Econ 501, 505, and 535 in the first fall semester; Econ 504, 506, and 635 in the first spring semester; and Econ 704, 705, and 706 in the second fall

semester.

- § 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.
- § PhD students must attempt the Qualifying Exam in January after the third semester (after completion of Econ 704 and 706). A student failing the exam must retake it at the next opportunity. Failing to attempt the exam according to schedule counts as a Fail, unless an exception has been approved in writing by the Graduate Program Committee and Department Chair.
- § PhD students with no previous graduate work are expected to complete the Qualifying Exam within 4 semesters, their regular course requirements in 6 or 7 semesters; the research seminar classes within 8 semesters; and the Preliminary Oral Exam within 9 semesters.
- § PhD students entering with graduate course credit from a Master's degree, or with other transfer credit, will have the satisfactory progress expectations adjusted accordingly.

Possible exceptions to the standard Satisfactory Progress expectations include:

- § Cases in which a student in the later stages of course work is forced to delay courses because of their schedule of availability.
- § Cases in which a self-funded or externally funded part-time student has a plan for part-time study that is approved by his or her advisor and sponsor (if relevant).

Students who cannot meet the satisfactory progress standards may at any time ask their academic advisor 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 may comment on it 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 economic theory or quantitative methods. 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. In particular:

- § All MA students are expected to complete the MA course requirements in no more than 3 semesters and to complete the thesis in the fourth semester. Consequently, MA students choosing these options will receive assistantship support for no more than 4 semesters.
- § PhD students should be able to accomplish all course work in 6 or 7 semesters. They should complete the Qualifying Exam after 3 or 4 semesters and all course work by the end of the eighth semester. Consequently, PhD students will receive assistantship support for no more than 8 semesters, but may be employed as Instructors after completion of course work, during the dissertation work.
- § Students entering the PhD program with course credit for other graduate work will have

the term of their funding adjusted in an equitable way that will be determined upon admission.

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 their responsibility 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.