Time Limit Policy for Doctoral Degrees

Effective: August 2014 (original)

Responsible Executive: Dean of the Graduate School

Applicability: Graduate Students

Review By: August 2024

Programs and departments should conduct annual reviews of doctoral candidates to assess progress toward the completion of the degree. Students are expected to achieve candidacy within six (6) years and to complete all requirements for the degree within ten (10) years. Upon admission to candidacy, the student has four (4) calendar years to complete all remaining requirements for the doctoral degree. The student’s time to completion begins with the earliest completed course approved for inclusion in the plan of study. If unable for any reason to complete the requirements on time, the student may petition, with the approval of the advisory committee, the dean of the Graduate School for a one-year extension. Students failing to complete the degree in the allotted time revert to the status of an applicant and must petition, with the approval of the advisory committee, the dean of the Graduate School to retake the oral examination.