

“Satisfactory Progress” for Graduate Students in Physics

Accepted 28 January, 2010

Graduate students are expected to make satisfactory progress towards their degrees. The OSU Graduate Catalog states that a student may be dismissed from the Graduate School for “...failing to make satisfactory progress toward an academic degree as determined by a major department or the Graduate School.” These guidelines define satisfactory progress towards a graduate degree in Physics. Students with questions about satisfactory progress should contact the Major Professor, the departmental Head Graduate Adviser, or the Department Chair.

Students will be notified in writing of these progress guidelines at the beginning of their first term of enrollment. If concerns arise as to whether a student is progressing satisfactorily, these concerns will be communicated to the Graduate Student and discussed among the Major Professor, the departmental Head Graduate Adviser, and the Department Chair in an effort to resolve problems and assist the student.

Exceptions to the guidelines must be explicitly justified and will be granted only with approval of the Department Chair, who will log the approved exceptions in the student’s file. Failure to resolve cases of unsatisfactory progress will lead to suspension or reduction of financial support, or dismissal.

Decisions about reappointment as a teaching assistant for students who are making satisfactory academic progress are based on evaluations of their performance as a teaching assistant.

The PhD Program in Physics defines satisfactory progress as:

- Identifying a Major Professor, forming a Graduate Committee, and submitting an approved, signed Program of Study form to the Graduate School prior to the end of the fifth term of enrollment.
- Commencing research under the direction of the Major Professor prior to the end of the fifth term of enrollment.
- Satisfactorily completing required courses within the first three years of enrollment – course requirements are described in detail on the physics department website http://physics.oregonstate.edu/files/physics/Grad_program/phdrequirements_2016.pdf.
- A grade-point average of 3.00 (a "B" average) is required: 1) for all courses taken as a degree-seeking graduate student, and 2) for courses included in the graduate degree or graduate certificate program of study. Grades below "C" (2.00) can not be used on a graduate program of study. A grade-point average of 3.00 is required before the final oral or written exam may be undertaken.
- Entering candidacy for the Ph.D. degree by passing the written Comprehensive Examination and the Preliminary Oral Examination prior to the end of the third year of enrollment.
- Initiating and participating in annual meetings with the Graduate Committee at which a written and an oral progress report is presented by the Candidate, discussed with the Graduate Committee, and accepted by the Graduate Committee as a demonstration of satisfactory progress.
- Acting in a timely manner to bring serious conflict between Student and the Major Professor to the attention of the Graduate Committee, the Head Adviser, or the Department Chair. In such cases, the parties involved will work in accordance with policies documented elsewhere.
- Completing a Thesis based on research performed as a graduate student and obtaining approval from the Major Professor and Graduate Committee prior to the end of the sixth year of enrollment.

- Successfully defending the Thesis and passing the final oral examination prior to the end of the sixth year of enrollment.

The Graduate Committee will have primary responsibility for monitoring the progress of the Graduate Student. The Graduate Committee will meet annually with the Graduate Student at which time the Graduate Student will present a progress report. The Graduate Committee will evaluate the Graduate Student's progress toward the degree and discuss their assessment with the Graduate Student. A report summarizing the Graduate Committee's assessment will be added to the Graduate Student's file after each such meeting.

First year students who have not yet formed a Graduate Committee will meet with the Head Graduate Adviser in spring term.

The MS Program in Physics defines satisfactory progress as:

- Identifying a Major Professor, forming a Graduate Committee, and submitting an approved, signed Program of Study form to the Graduate School prior to the end of the second term of enrollment.
- Deciding whether the degree will include a Master's Thesis or a Project (non-thesis option) prior to the end of the second term of enrollment.
- Commencing thesis or project research prior to the end of the third term of enrollment.
- Satisfactorily completing required courses within the first two years of enrollment – course requirements are described in detail on the physics department website http://physics.oregonstate.edu/files/physics/Grad_program/ms_requirements_2016.pdf.
- A grade-point average of 3.00 (a "B" average) is required: 1) for all courses taken as a degree-seeking graduate student, and 2) for courses included in the graduate degree or graduate certificate program of study. Grades below "C" (2.00) can not be used on a graduate program of study. A grade-point average of 3.00 is required before the final oral or written exam may be undertaken.
- Participating in a progress meeting with the Graduate Committee during the fourth term of enrollment.
- Acting in a timely manner to bring serious conflict between student and the adviser to the attention of the attention of the Graduate Committee, the Head Adviser, or the Department Chair. In such cases, the parties involved will work in accordance with policies documented elsewhere.
- Completing a Thesis or written Project Report based on research performed as a graduate student and obtaining approval from the Major Professor and Graduate Committee prior to the end of the second year of enrollment.
- Presenting a report on the Project or successfully defending the Thesis and passing the final oral examination prior to the end of the second year of enrollment.

The Graduate Committee will have primary responsibility for monitoring the progress of the Graduate Student. The Graduate Committee will meet with the Graduate Student at the beginning of the second year of enrollment at which time the Graduate Student will present a progress report. The Graduate Committee will evaluate the Graduate Student's progress toward the degree and discuss their assessment with the Graduate Student. A report summarizing the Graduate Committee's assessment will be added to the Graduate Student's file after the meeting.

In the event that graduate study extends beyond two years, the committee and the student will meet at the beginning of the third year to develop a plan for timely completion of the degree.