Good Standing Policy – University of Minnesota Psychology Ph.D. Program

In addition to fulfilling the Graduate School’s performance standards (http://policy.umn.edu/education/doctoralperformance), Psychology Ph.D. students must abide by the Psychology Department’s definition of good standing. Students should be aware that their program may have additional specific standards students must adhere to as well.

“University of Minnesota Graduate Student Good Standing/Good Academic Standing Standards

Students remain in good standing if they: (a) make timely progress towards degree completion as required by the program; (b) maintain a GPA at or above a 3.0; and (c) pass all appropriate examinations within the time frame specified by the program.” The details of this policy as defined by the Psychology Department are outlined below.

A) Timely Progress towards Degree Completion, as Defined by Psychology

Students who do not make timely progress towards degree completion are subject to further review during the annual evaluation process and may be at risk for being placed on probation, depending upon the severity of the situation. Students should also check with their areas of specialization for area-specific requirements.

By the end of Year 3 in the program, which includes the summer, students should:

- Have completed their General Area Distribution Requirement coursework and submitted the form for approval
- Have completed and submitted the Graduate Degree Plan form for approval
- Have resolved all “Incompletes” on their academic record
- Have passed their written preliminary exam (or area equivalent) in no more than two attempts and submitted their Preliminary Written Exam Results form

By the end of Year 4 in the program, but preferably earlier, students should:

- Have passed their oral preliminary exam in no more than two attempts
- Ideally have completed 24 hours of dissertation/thesis credits (PSY 8888) in two consecutive semesters, achieving ABD status

By the end of year 5:

- All students should have completed all credits needed for the program, including the 24 hours of PSY 8888
- Students not in the clinical and counseling areas of specialization should strive to defend their dissertation and earn their doctorate degree. Funding is not guaranteed past year 5.

By the end of year 6:

- Students in the clinical and counseling areas should have completed their one-year pre-doctoral internship and earned their doctorate degree.
B) **Maintain a GPA of 3.0 or above**

In order to remain in good standing per Graduate School and departmental regulations, students should maintain both an annual and a cumulative GPA of a 3.0 or above. Students should also check with their areas of specialization for area-specific requirements. Students whose annual or cumulative GPA drops below a 3.0 will be placed on probation by the department.

C) **Pass all Appropriate Examinations within the Time Frame Specified by the Psychology**

Students who do not A) pass their preliminary written exams by the end of Year 3 summer or B) pass their oral preliminary exams successfully by the end of Year 4 or C) defend their dissertation by the end of Year 5 are subject to further review during the annual evaluation process and may be at risk for being placed on probation, depending upon the severity of the situation.

**Probation Policies and Procedures**

Each semester, and as part of the required annual review, the associate director of graduate studies will review all students’ records to insure students are meeting the criteria outlined above to remain in good standing. If a student is found to be in violation of any one of these criteria, the student’s advisor, area director, and the Director of Graduate Studies will be informed. They will review the student’s file and discuss whether the student should be placed on probation, with the final recommendation coming from the Director of Graduate Studies. If students are placed on probation, the terms and length of the probation will be decided upon jointly by the faculty advisor(s), the area director, the Director of Graduate Studies, and the department chair. Students will be notified of their probationary status in writing, and a copy of the probation letter will be included in the student’s departmental file. The letter will include conditions for release from probation. If at the end of the probationary period the student has not met the terms outlined in the probation letter, the student may be subject to dismissal from the graduate program and the university.

**Student Code of Conduct**

Graduate students will also be held to the University of Minnesota Board of Regents Student Conduct Code ([http://oscai.umn.edu/know-code/scc-simplified](http://oscai.umn.edu/know-code/scc-simplified)). Students who are found to have committed any one of the disciplinary offenses outlined in the policy may be subject not only to sanctions, including probation, but also to immediate dismissal from the program and the university.

**Departmental Funding/Good Standing**

Students who are on probation are not eligible to apply for most departmental, college, or university awards and/or fellowships, as they are not considered to be in good standing with the department.

Students on probation who are funded through departmental means (teaching assistants, supplemental instructors, graduate instructors, and/or departmental fellows) may risk losing their funding if at the end of their probationary period the conditions for release from probation have not been met. This is the decision of the Director of Graduate Studies and the Department Chair.