

Milestone Timeline

The primary responsibility for ensuring timely progress in the Graduate Program in Psychology falls first on the student and second on the student's mentor.

Students are expected to achieve program milestones along the following schedule:

Master's thesis defense	End of second year
Preliminary exam	End of third year or one year post-Master's
Dissertation proposal	End of fourth year or one year post-Prelim
Dissertation defense	End of fifth year or two years post-proposal

If milestones are not achieved based on the timeline above, then the 'Extension For Milestone Form' must be completed by and co-signed by the student and faculty mentor. In addition, the Program Chair must sign as well. Extension For Milestone Form documents that a conversation has taken place between the student and his/her mentor discussing all of the factors contributing to the need for additional time and the drafting of a plan to address barriers and complete the project within the coming year. The Graduate Program in Psychology recognizes that matters arise such that deadlines need to be extended. Thus, students will have a 1-year grace period for each of these deadlines. If by the end of the grace period, the milestone has not been completed then students will be officially in 'poor standing' – a designation to be included in the student's end of year evaluation.

During the spring semester of each year, program chairs must convene a meeting of program faculty to evaluate each graduate student within that program. The student's research mentor must be present at the meeting (thus faculty with affiliate status will need to be present). The program chair will draft a letter to each student in their program to provide feedback on their progress. The letter must state whether the student is in good or poor standing.