

Policy for Ph.D. student academic progress, unsatisfactory academic standing, and academic probation and dismissal from the doctoral program in Nuclear Engineering and Radiological Sciences (NERS)

Deficiencies in academic progress of doctoral students

Students should periodically meet with their advisors to discuss their academic performance and progress toward the degree. The NERS graduate program shall immediately notify students in writing when their performance falls below an acceptable level. In response to a student's academic deficiencies, the Graduate School may take any of the following actions:

- place a note of "unsatisfactory academic standing" on the student's academic record
- place a continuing student on academic probation;
- require a student to withdraw from the University; or
- not confer a degree or certificate.

Unsatisfactory academic standing

The Graduate School will place a notation of "unsatisfactory academic performance" on the academic record at the end of the term in which a student's cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 on a 4.0-point scale. In NERS, "unsatisfactory academic performance" standing will also result if the Ph.D. student evaluation form filled by the student and the advisor contains an evaluation of "unsatisfactory progress."

NERS will notify the Rackham Office of Academic Records and Dissertations (OARD) when it determines that a student's academic performance is unsatisfactory based upon the above criteria. The unsatisfactory academic performance may be a basis for placing a student on academic probation.

During the period in which the student has an unsatisfactory academic performance, they may not advance to candidacy or be awarded a degree or graduate certificate.

Academic probation and dismissal of doctoral students for academic reasons

Academic probation is normally required before NERS may recommend that a doctoral student be dismissed for academic reasons. As an exception, and only after a notice to the student, a student may be dismissed without probation for failing to pass the candidacy exam.

As of the 2019 Fall Term, NERS will implement program-level policy for academic probation and dismissal that is consistent with the following guidelines. NERS is responsible for communicating this policy to all doctoral students and faculty and for applying this with equity and fairness, taking into account accommodations for special situations. Academic probation will be noted on the student transcript. The probation policy document will be published on NERS website and included in the NERS graduate handbook.

Placing a student on academic probation. The advisor or graduate chair may recommend that a student be placed on academic probation. The decision to place a student on probation must be made by a faculty group of at least three persons that includes the graduate chair, the advisor, and the option chair. In consultation with the advisor, another faculty member may be selected by the graduate chair to this group in the case that option chair is unavailable.

Length of the probationary period. The probationary period may be no shorter than two months of the fall or winter term and ordinarily conclude at the end of that term. For a student placed on probation within

two months of the end of the fall term, the probationary period will extend into the winter term for a total of at least two months. For a student placed on probation within two months of the end of the winter term, the probationary period may include the spring or summer half-terms or the following fall term, for a total of at least two months. A student may be placed on probation starting in the spring or summer half term for a minimum of two months and does not need to be enrolled during these half terms.

Notifications. The graduate chair must notify the student and Rackham OARD in writing before the probationary period begins, explaining the reasons and conditions of probation; the start and end dates of the probationary period; funding support (see below); conditions, if any, for returning to satisfactory standing; and options for appeal (see below). A student who has been placed on probation may request a leave of absence from Rackham or withdraw. The leave or withdrawal will stop the clock on the probationary period, which resumes when the student returns to active status or is reinstated. The leave of absence must be due to medical or personal reasons independent of the probation, but may not be taken solely to stop the clock on the probation period. Probation will remain in effect until the conditions are remedied or the student is dismissed.

Funding a student on probation. The funding for the probation period will be continued as before.

End of the probationary period and dismissal. At the end of probation, and upon the recommendation of the graduate chair and the consent of the Graduate School, a student may either be returned to good academic standing or determined to be not in good academic standing and dismissed from the program. The decision to dismiss a student must be made by the faculty group of at least three persons to include the graduate chair, the advisor, and another faculty member such as the option chair. The graduate chair must notify Rackham OARD of a recommendation for dismissal.

Option to appeal academic probation or dismissal. Students must be notified of options to appeal academic probation or dismissal. The NERS Chair shall appoint a separate committee of review to consider appeals. The separate committee will consist of at least three NERS faculty members and not include any faculty from the faculty group that put the student on probation. Students may use the Graduate School's Academic Dispute Resolution process only for procedural issues of fair and equal treatment under the policy of the program, and not to appeal the academic reasons for the decision.

Failing the qualifying exam. Students who fail the exam on their first attempt have an opportunity to retake the exam. Students who fail the exam the second time will be dismissed unless an exception is granted by a vote of NERS faculty.

Students who fail to meet standards of academic or professional integrity or who have been found responsible for violations of other University standards of conduct may be dismissed in accordance with separate procedures described in Rackham Academic and Professional Integrity Policy.