

NORMAL PROGRESS BENCHMARKS

UTK Department of Sociology

Revised February 15, 2022

MA-End of First Year

Student has completed course work with no grade lower than a B- and an overall GPA in excess of 3.0.

Student has selected a thesis chair

Faculty agree that student's writing and analytical ability will allow them to complete a thesis

Faculty agree that the student actively contributes to the intellectual discourse of their courses

MA-End of Second Year

Student has completed course work with no grade lower than a B- and an overall GPA in excess of 3.0.

Student has attended a professional meeting

Student has held a committee meeting to approve the thesis proposal

Student has successfully defended the thesis

Faculty agree that the student actively contributes to the intellectual discourse of their courses

MA-End of Third Year or Later

If student has not completed degree by end of first semester of third year, normal progress is not being made.

PhD-End of First Year

Student has completed course work with no grade lower than a B- and an overall GPA in excess of 3.0.

Student has presented a paper at a regional or national professional meeting

Faculty agree that student's writing and analytical ability will allow them to complete a dissertation

Faculty agree that the student actively contributes to the intellectual discourse of their courses

PhD-End of Second Year

Student has completed course work with no grade lower than a B- and an overall GPA in excess of 3.0.

Student has presented a paper at a regional or national professional meeting

Student has submitted a manuscript for review to a journal

Student has assembled their MAP committee and received approval of their topic and their reading list

Faculty agree that student's writing and analytical ability will allow them to complete a dissertation

Faculty agree that the student actively contributes to the intellectual discourse of their courses

PhD-End of Third Year

Student has presented a paper at a national professional meeting

Student has submitted a manuscript for review to a journal

Student has successfully completed an approved MAP

Student has assembled her dissertation committee and submitted paperwork to graduate school

Student has successfully defended dissertation proposal

Faculty agree that student's writing and analytical ability will allow them to complete a dissertation

PhD-End of Fourth Year

Faculty remains confident in student's ability to successfully complete a dissertation

Student has made significant progress on dissertation data collection

Student has written at least two chapters of a dissertation that have been reviewed by the chair

(NOTE: Most students will complete their dissertation at the end of Year 4 and should plan on seeking employment at the beginning of Year 4. Although this is not required for normal progress, please note that funded students may not be able to retain their assistantships after Year 4 because of budget limitations.)

PhD-End of Fifth Year

Student has actively sought employment

Student has defended the dissertation

PhD-End of Sixth Year or Later

If student has not completed degree program by end of sixth year, normal progress is not being made.