Satisfactory Academic Progress

The graduate committee evaluates student progress towards graduation at least once a year. Students and faculty advisor(s) are requested to provide information as required for this purpose. The DOGE communicates any concerns regarding a student’s academic progress to the student and his/her faculty advisor(s).

Cases where a student consistently fails to show satisfactory academic progress in two consecutive evaluations will be further discussed with the student’s faculty advisor(s). In this case, the student may become ineligible for continued financial support from the department and may become ineligible for further registration as a graduate student in Computer Science. The student can appeal this decision by submitting a written petition, supported by the student’s faculty advisor(s), to the graduate committee.

Satisfactory Academic Progress Towards a M.S.

a. Choice of Major Professor to be made by February 1 (or September 1 if admitted in spring) during the first academic year study in the graduate program.
b. Program of Study (POS) Committee and the POS form (listing the courses to be taken) approved by the end of the second semester\(^1\) of study in the graduate program.
c. Make appropriate progress toward M.S. degree in a timely fashion.
d. Demonstrate research productivity in terms of publications, technical reports, software development, etc.
e. Minimum GPA of 3.2 during the first year and cumulative GPA of 3.3 or above in courses that appear on the Program of Study. Satisfy all grade requirements (see M.S. degree requirements).

Satisfactory Academic Progress Towards a Ph.D.

a. Choice of Major Professor to be made by May 1 (or December 1 if admitted in spring) during the first academic year of study in the graduate program.
b. Program of Study (POS) Committee and the POS form (listing the courses to be taken) approved by the beginning of the third semester\(^1\) of study in the graduate program.
c. Make appropriate progress toward doctoral degree in a timely fashion (see Ph.D. graduation timeline).
d. Demonstrate research productivity in terms of publications, technical reports, software development, etc.
e. Satisfy all grade requirements (see Ph.D. degree requirements)

\(^1\) For students entering the graduate program in the Fall semester, second semester is the Spring of the following year and third semester is Fall of the following year. For students entering the graduate program in the Spring semester, second semester is the Fall of the same year and third semester is the Spring of the following year.
**Suggested PhD Timeline**

PhD students are expected to make timely progress towards graduation following the timeline presented below. Exceptions such as delay in completing steps 4—6 are allowed on approval of the student’s major professor. Students are also allowed to complete the steps before the suggested time-steps; for instance, on approval of the student’s major professor and POSC, students may complete the steps 4—6 within 4 years.

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<th>Step</th>
<th>Timeframe</th>
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| 1.   | End of Year 1 | Complete Core Course Requirements (COMS 511, COMS 531)  
      |           | Complete Colloquium Requirement (COMS 592)  
      |           | Decide on Major Professor |
| 2.   | Start of Year 2 | Submit POSC and POS information via Accessplus |
| 3.   | End of Year 2 | Complete Area Proficiency Requirements (9 cr. in student’s area of research) |
| 4.   | End of Year 3 | Complete Research Proficiency Examination |
| 5.   | End of Year 4 | Complete Preliminary Examination (*timing of the examination is subject to approval of student’s thesis supervisor/major professor*) |