

UC DAVIS GRADUATE COUNCIL POLICY

GC2000-01 (rev. 03)

Time to Degree Policy

Approved – June 21, 2000

Revised – June 17, 2015

Revised – June 16, 2017

Revised – June 15, 2018

Doctoral students will have 12 registered quarters from the quarter they pass their qualifying examination to submit their dissertation. Students do not gain additional time to submit their dissertation if they advance to candidacy in a subsequent quarter. The clock is "set" from the quarter they pass the Qualifying Examination, not the quarter the student officially advances to candidacy through submission of the form to Graduate Studies. Summer terms, quarters in which the student is on Planned Educational Leave (PELP), and terms for which the student has withdrawn will not count towards the allotted 12 quarters. A quarter a student is on filing fee will count as they are working towards degree requirements that quarter. Refer also to the [Family and Medical Leave Accommodation for Graduate Students Policy \(GC 2015-01\)](#).

If a student has not submitted their dissertation to Graduate Studies within the allowed period, the student will be sent a notice from Graduate Studies that they are placed on probation and have 1 year (3 registered quarters) after that quarter to submit the dissertation. If the student does not submit the dissertation by the end of the last quarter of probation, the student will be disqualified from that degree program. If a student goes on PELP during the probation year, the probation will automatically be extended by the number of quarters the student was on PELP. Procedures on disqualification can be found in the Graduate Studies [Disqualification and Appeal Policy \(GS2005-01\)](#).

Major professors, academic advisors, or students may petition Graduate Council, or a designee, for an exception to this policy. Exceptions will be considered on a case by case basis. To request an exception, students should provide a detailed timeline, a letter of support from the major professor and any relevant documentation to Graduate Studies for review. Students can also ask for an extension of their probation period. The petitioner should submit a [Time to Degree Extension Request Form](#), a detailed timeline, a letter of support from the major professor, and any relevant documentation to Graduate Studies for review. Students, faculty, and programs have the right to appeal a denial of an exception to policy or extension request for cause. Decisions regarding appeals will be made by the Dean of Graduate Studies, after consultation with the Administrative Committee of Graduate Council.

The policy provides a realistic and achievable timeline given that normative time for the doctoral degree is typically 5-6 years. Thus, if a student passes their QE during the 3rd year (before the 9th quarter), this requirement gives the student an additional 4 years to complete dissertation work and remain in good academic standing. This would represent submission of the dissertation in the seventh year of registration. In addition, a student has a probationary eighth year for completion, which is well beyond the normative time for programs on this campus.