

## **GSSW PhD Programmatic Milestones**

The Graduate School of Social Work expects students in the Ph.D. Program to make consistent progress toward completion of their degree. As such programmatic milestones have been established and eligibility for certain types of financial support is tied to completion of programmatic milestones.

### **Year One Programmatic Milestones**

At the end of the first year of the Ph.D. Program, students are expected to have:

- a)** successfully completed approximately one-half of the course credits required for completion of their degree;
- b)** received feedback from faculty supervisor of satisfactory work as GSSW Pre-Doctoral Fellowship(s), Graduate Teaching Assistantship(s), or Graduate Research Assistantship(s) (if awarded) as indicated on Student Development Plan; and,
- c)** developed and received approval for their Educational Plan;
- d)** successfully passed the Research Methods and Statistics qualifying examination; and,
- e)** selected a permanent academic advisor.

These milestones need to be completed in order to move into preliminary candidacy. If any of the milestones are not completed by the end of the first year of the Ph.D. program, a written plan (including timeline) for addressing the deficiency must be submitted to the Associate Dean for Doctoral Education for approval. The remediation plan will be filed in the student's educational file. GSSW Teaching and Research Assistantships will not be awarded to students who have not completed their year one programmatic milestones by the end of the first academic year

### **Year Two Programmatic Milestones**

At the end of the second year of the Ph.D. Program, students are expected to have:

- a)** successfully completed all required course credits required for completion of their degree (75 credits beyond the MSW or 90 hours beyond their non-MSW master's degree and no

incompletes);

- b)** received feedback from faculty supervisor of satisfactory work as GSSW Pre-Doctoral Fellowship(s), Graduate Teaching Assistantship(s), or Graduate Research Assistantship(s) (if awarded) as indicated on Student Development Plan; and,
- c)** Updated and finalized their Educational Plan
- d)** successfully completed and received approval on their comprehensive exam proposal by August 15<sup>th</sup>

If any of the milestones are not completed by the end of the second year of the Ph.D. program, a written plan (including timeline) for addressing the deficiency must be submitted to the Associate Dean for Doctoral Education for approval. GSSW Pre-Doctoral Assistantships will not be awarded to students who have not completed their year two programmatic milestones by the end of the second academic year (see section on GSSW Pre-Doctoral Assistantships below).

### **Year Three Programmatic Milestones**

At the end of the third year of the Ph.D. Program, students are expected to have:

- a)** successfully passed their comprehensive exam\*;
- b)** been moved to final candidacy;
- c)** received feedback from faculty supervisor of satisfactory work as GSSW Pre-Doctoral Fellowship(s), Graduate Teaching Assistantship(s), or Graduate Research Assistantship(s) (if awarded) as indicated on Student Development Plan; and,
- d)** completed and received approval for their dissertation proposal.

GSSW Doctoral Assistantships will not be awarded to students who have not completed their year three programmatic milestones by the end of the third academic year (see section on GSSW Doctoral Assistantships below).

\*All students are expected to have successfully passed their comprehensive exam by the end of their fourth year in the program. Failure to have done so will result in termination from the program.