The English Department takes very seriously each student's steady movement toward the doctorate. A**ll funding/financial aid offers are contingent upon making minimal satisfactory progress.**

The English Department has its own requirements for the maintenance of minimal satisfactory progress, as follows. Doctoral students are expected to:

* Maintain course grades of B and above in coursework. Two course grades below a B may result in dismissal from the program.
* Complete all incompletes before proceeding to the qualifying examination.
* Complete their coursework no later than their fifth semester in the program.
* Complete the relevant portions of the annual evaluation form and give a copy to the director by the spring deadline.
* Pass the first stage of the qualifying exam (“orals”) no later than 31 August of year 4. If the student fails on the first attempt, a second try is permitted. A second failure may result in dismissal from the program.
  + NB. This is the minimal satisfactory standard. Students are expected to pass the first stage of the qualifying exam in the fall semester of year 3.
* Submit an approved dissertation prospectus to the advisory committee no later than 15 January of year 4.
  + NB. This is the minimal satisfactory standard. Students are expected to pass the second stage of the qualifying exam (“prospectus”) in the spring semester of year 3.
* Advance to candidacy by successfully passing their qualifying examination no later than the end of year 4. Students who do not meet this requirement will be placed on probation and will be at risk of losing their funding.
* Complete and defend their **dissertation**by the end of the sixth year.

For extensions to this schedule, students may petition the DGS through their director and/or advising committees.