**Good Academic Standing: Maintaining Satisfactory Progress through the Program**

In order to be in good academic standing, the Graduate College requires that all doctoral students maintain a GPA above a 3.0. In addition, the English Department has its own requirements for the maintenance of satisfactory progress, as follows. In order to maintain satisfactory progress through the program, doctoral students must:

1) Apply for qualification by their fourth semester in the program (see the section below on “Qualification”)

2) Take their comprehensive exam within five semesters of reaching 24 s. h. of total graduate credit (see the section below on “Comprehensive Exams”)

3) Submit a dissertation prospectus to their committee in the semester after taking their comprehensive exam (see the section below on the “Dissertation”)

4) Complete and defend their dissertation within their expected time to degree (6 years for those entering with a BA; 5 years for those entering with an MA or with fellowship support as indicated in the initial offer letter)

**Reviews by the Graduate Steering Committee**

Any student who is not making satisfactory progress will be reviewed by the Graduate Steering Committee in the spring semester. The committee will produce a plan outlining the requirements the student must fulfill to return to good standing in the following academic year. If the student fails to fulfill these requirements, he or she will be reviewed one more time. If, after the second review, the student still has not met the requirements of the Graduate Steering Committee, he or she will be obligated to leave the program. The DGS is always ready to consult with students about their progress through the program, their academic standing at any given time, and the Graduate Steering Committee’s review process.

When applying annually for financial aid, students will be required to note their progress; unsatisfactory progress may result in lower standing for financial support or denial of aid.