

Roles and Responsibilities: SOM Graduate Advisory Committees

Graduate advisory committees (GAC) are required for students in all Ph.D. programs and students in Master's programs requiring a thesis. Other programs might also require GACs for students.

GACs serve two inter-related roles. One role is to regularly assess each student to ensure they are making progress toward meeting training benchmarks. The other role is to guide, advise and support each student to facilitate their efficient progression toward degree completion. More specifically, members of GACs are expected to:

- Meet as a committee with each student at least once each year to receive and provide feedback on student research progress, training updates, and progress toward degree completion
- Participate in comprehensive exams for Ph.D. students and final defenses for M.S. and Ph.D. students
- When called upon, serve as chair of the GAC for Ph.D. comprehensive and M.S. final exams
- Provide feedback to students on comprehensive exams, theses and dissertations in a timely fashion in coordination with the advisor
- Coordinate with the advisor to provide guidance on all aspects of a student's training including planned and completed research and course work
- Assist the advisor to identify a student's current strengths and areas for growth, and as necessary advise the student about actions needed
- Assist the advisor regarding best mentoring practices
- Bring to the attention of the advisor, program director or Associate Dean for Graduate Education signs of student behavioral or other issues that are persistent, troubling, not improving, or otherwise could be interfering with the student's training and career.

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