

**Responsibilities of Supervisors and Graduate Students\***  
As approved by the Academic Council of the School of Graduate Studies June 2000

<p>The fundamental principle underlying this statement of responsibilities is that between students and faculty there must be mutual respect governed by high standards of professional integrity and ethics. Supervisors and students alike are expected to assume responsibilities and commitments, without which no written regulations will create a successful relationship. For additional information, refer to Policy Statement on Integrity in Scholarly Research, available from the Office of Research.</p>		
1.	Supervisors should make themselves familiar with regulations of the SGS and their own academic units, keep abreast of any changes that might affect their students, and ensure that students are informed of these regulations.	Students should become familiar with, and meet all appropriate deadline dates and regulations associated with registration and graduate requirements, as specified in the appropriate regulations of the SGS and the academic unit.
2.	Supervisors should help students outline programs of study that are challenging and feasible and which enable students to contribute to their disciplines.	Students should understand that they are making a commitment to enhance the chosen field of study by developing expertise to a level of competence where new ideas and knowledge may be created. In consultations with the supervisor and members of the committee, the student should endeavor to choose an appropriate and reasonable topic of research as early as possible.
3.	Supervisors should make reasonable efforts to ensure students have access to academic, financial and other resources necessary in order to complete their programs in a timely manner	Students should make reasonable efforts to become aware of appropriate sources of funding.
4.	If students have been supported by funds from the supervisor's research grants, and such funds become unavailable, supervisors should attempt to give at least one semester's notice to these students to find alternative funding.	Students should assist in the securing of additional or alternative funding by seeking sources, completing forms and providing information as required.
5.	Supervisors should consult their academic units on the assignment of graduate assistantships, and ensure that duties assigned under such assistantships are appropriate and do not impede the progress of students' academic programs.	Students should be aware of guidelines governing teaching assistantships in their academic units and should carry out those duties in a professional manner.
6.	Supervisors should inform students of safety regulations on campus and encourage students to become familiar with regulations off campus.	Students should maintain safe work environments and discuss concerns with supervisors as soon as problems are noted. Students should become aware of and follow safety policies on and off campus.
7.	Supervisors should initiate regular meetings with their students, according to a mutually agreed schedule, and make themselves accessible to discuss problems or issues that may arise between scheduled meetings. All students should have a supervisor or an advisor during the course of the program, and should contact the Graduate Officer if they do not have one.	Students must maintain regular contact with the supervisor and the members of the supervisory committee, and should meet with the latter regularly to review progress. Students should follow the agreed upon program of study (including thesis research where appropriate) and endeavor to make acceptable progress towards program objectives.
8.	During any extended period of absence from campus, supervisors must make arrangements for advising and supervising students while they are absent; such arrangements should be acceptable to their students and to heads of the relevant academic units.	It is the student's responsibility to keep the supervisor informed of where s/he may be contacted. Students should also inform the supervisor of any extended period of absence or the potential of such absence.

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9.	Supervisors must convene meetings of students' supervisory committees at least once a year and should complete and submit to the SGS annually a detailed Supervisory Report Form for each student under their supervision.	Students should assist the supervisor in preparing for the yearly report by providing relevant documents or information.
10.	Supervisors should make constructive suggestions on any written work submitted as part of their students' program, alert students to any perceived difficulties this work is likely to encounter, and return the work to students promptly. Supervisors should make reasonable efforts to ensure that theses are acceptable before they are submitted to the SGS for examination.	Where it is required, the student must agree to produce a thesis of his/her own work that reflects a capacity for independent scholarship in the discipline, and that meets generally accepted standards of quality and style. In the thesis, the student must acknowledge assistance, materials and/or data provided by other scholars, including fellow students, companies, technicians, the supervisory committee and others.
11.	Supervisors should discuss intellectual property issues with students, at the earliest possible stage of their programs, including any potential joint authorship that might arise from their research and any joint ownership of data or patents; supervisors should also make sure they adequately acknowledge any student contributions to material they publish.	Students must recognize that in cases where his/her research comprises a component of the supervisor's research program, questions of joint ownership of data and/or patents should be discussed. Questions regarding sole or joint ownership of data in such a research program must be resolved as early as possible in the life of the program, and the possibility of joint publication of research results discussed and clarified.
12.	Supervisors should ensure that they do not exploit students for personal, financial or professional gain.	If students feel they are exploited in any way they have the responsibility to discuss concerns with the Vice-President (Academic) of the GSU**, Graduate Officer, Head of Department and finally the Dean of Graduate Studies. This list may not be exclusive.
13.	Supervisors should avoid any attempts to indoctrinate students into their own political, religious or other ideologies and prejudices.	If students feel they are being pressured, they have the responsibility to discuss concerns with the Vice-President (Academic) of the GSU**, Graduate Officer, Head of Department and finally the Dean of Graduate Studies. This list may not be exclusive.
14.	Supervisors should in any case where disagreement arises between supervisor and student, approach (in consultation with the student if possible) the Head, Graduate Officer or other appropriate person to initiate a process for resolving the dispute.	In cases where there is disagreement between supervisor and student, it is incumbent upon the student, in consultation with the supervisor whenever possible, to approach the appropriate officials within the academic unit and/or the SGS so that discussions aimed at solving the problems can be initiated. The Vice-President (Academic) of the GSU** is available for information and advocacy as well.

\*All students should have a supervisor or an advisor upon admission and during the course of their program and should contact the Graduate Officer if they do not have one. In various academic units the practice is to assign advisors before appointment of a supervisor and/or supervisory committee. In these instances, the general principles of this policy statement still apply.

\*\* Students may consult the Office of the Vice-President (Academic) of the Graduate Student Union to discuss their problem and receive information regarding a resolution. The Vice-President (Academic) of the GSU will offer graduate students advocacy, advice and proper directions in cases of academic disputes.