

Mutual Expectations

Of Graduate Students and Advisors or M.A. Thesis/Ph.D. Dissertation Supervisors
Department of Religious Studies, University of Iowa

General Expectations

Successful graduate studies depend on the commitment of both students and faculty, and on their ability to work together. Graduate students strive for academic excellence, and advisors observe best practices in graduate education on behalf of students and advisees. Students and advisors maintain a learning environment that is intellectually stimulating, mutually respectful, emotionally supportive, and characterized by clear and consistent communication.

Advisors' Expectations of Graduate Students

1. Graduate students have primary responsibility for fulfilling their degree requirements and graduating in a timely manner.
2. Graduate students will be knowledgeable about the policies and requirements of the Religious Studies graduate program and the Graduate College, and strive to meet these requirements by established deadlines.
3. M.A. students will consult and follow the **M.A. Program Book** and the **Benchmarks and Guidelines for M.A. Success**. Ph.D. students will consult and follow the **Ph.D. Program Book** and the **Benchmarks and Guidelines for Ph.D. Success**.
4. Graduate students will meet regularly with their advisors, be forthcoming about additional direction they may need, be responsive to feedback, and provide their advisors with frequent updates on their progress toward degree.
5. Graduate students will work with their advisors to select their committees, as described in the program books. Students will meet with their committees at least annually and be responsive to advice and constructive criticism from committee members.
6. Graduate students will make an effort to attend and participate in departmental events, such as colloquia, invited lectures, and conferences, which are part of the department's educational program.
7. Graduate students who write M.A. theses or Ph.D. dissertations will work with their advisors and committees to develop strong research projects. They will develop timelines for each phase of the work. Students will seek to meet established deadlines and consult with their advisors if they fall behind schedule.
8. Graduate students have primary responsibility for career development following the completion of their degrees. Students will seek assistance from all available resources, including their main advisors, committee members, career counseling services, and other mentors.

Expectations of Graduate-Student Advisors

1. Advisors are committed to the education and training of their graduate students as future members of the academic profession.
2. Advisors will help to plan and direct their graduate students' progress through the program, and will be knowledgeable about the requirements and deadlines of the Religious Studies graduate program and the Graduate College.
3. Advisors will meet one-on-one with advisees on a regular basis, and will be available to discuss any issues related to graduate students' research, teaching, and career goals.
4. Advisors will provide timely, detailed, and useful feedback on their students' written work, and respond positively to students' requests for further clarification.
5. Advisors will meet with their students each semester to recommend classes that align with the students' research interests, including classes that are taught in other departments.
6. Advisors will help students compile reading lists that lay a strong foundation in chosen areas of study and prepare students for final or comprehensive exams.
7. Advisors will help their graduate students to select the members of their committees (as described in the program books), and they will encourage students to seek out advice and support from their committee members. Advisors will ensure that students' committees meet at intervals specified by the Religious Studies graduate program.
8. Advisors will encourage their graduate students to attend professional meetings and will advise them on the presentation of papers. Advisors will also encourage graduate students to publish in academic journals or elsewhere, if appropriate.
9. Advisors will not require graduate students to perform tasks unrelated to their academic and professional development.
10. Advisors will provide career advice and assist their students in finding employment following graduation. Advisor will provide letters of recommendation and be accessible for advice and feedback on career advancement strategies.