

# Graduate Student Bulletin

## 2025-2026

The University of Michigan's School of Kinesiology offers an exceptional range of graduate programs designed to prepare students for influential careers in health, wellness, sports, and beyond. The School supports four master's degree programs and two Doctoral programs: At the master's level, students may enroll in the Athletic Training, Movement Science, Sport Management, or Intraoperative Neurophysiology programs. At the Doctoral level, Sport Management and Movement Science degrees are offered. With a commitment to pioneering research, interdisciplinary collaboration, and practical application, our programs stand at the forefront of kinesiology education. Students benefit from access to world-renowned faculty, state-of-the-art facilities, and a dynamic academic environment that fosters innovation and excellence. Whether you aspire to advance the scientific understanding of human movement, contribute to cutting-edge sports management, or promote public health and physical activity, the University of Michigan provides the resources and support to help students achieve their professional goals and make a lasting impact in the field.

The Graduate Student Bulletin contains important information about Graduate Studies in the School of Kinesiology at the University of Michigan. It provides key information about academic program requirements, rules, and regulations of Kinesiology and is intended to help Graduate Students make informed choices about applying to the School of Kinesiology graduate program and satisfactorily completing a Graduate Degree. This comprehensive document serves as a crucial resource for prospective and current students, outlining the steps and standards necessary for navigating their educational journey successfully.

In addition to detailing program requirements, the bulletin covers a wide range of guidelines that students must follow to maintain good academic standing and progress through their studies effectively. It also highlights the various support services and resources available to assist students throughout their time in the program. Furthermore, the bulletin includes information on research opportunities, funding options, and internship opportunities, helping students to maximize their educational experience and prepare for future careers.

The bulletin is regularly updated to reflect any changes in the curriculum or university policies, ensuring that students have access to the most current and accurate information. By thoroughly reviewing the Graduate Student Bulletin, students will be well-equipped to make strategic decisions, address potential challenges, and achieve their academic and professional goals. The detailed guidance provided within this bulletin is indispensable for students dedicated to succeeding in the School of Kinesiology at the University of Michigan.

**Graduate Students should consult their Faculty Advisor and/or Graduate Program Director for specific information regarding their program of study. Additionally, Graduate Students are also encouraged to be in frequent contact with the Office of Graduate Student Affairs.** Please also consult the School of Kinesiology's website at [www.kines.umich.edu](http://www.kines.umich.edu) and UM's Rackham School of Graduate Studies website at [www.rackham.umich.edu](http://www.rackham.umich.edu) for more expansive and detailed information.

During their degree program, Graduate Students are usually governed by the requirements and regulations in effect when they were admitted. However, in efforts to improve the Graduate Student experience, Kinesiology and/or UM's Rackham School of Graduate Studies may modify programs, policies, or procedures prior to or during any academic year.

Any questions or concerns about the information presented here should be directed to the Office of Kinesiology Graduate Affairs ([kingradcomm@umich.edu](mailto:kingradcomm@umich.edu)) or the Rackham Graduate School (see their [Help Desk](#)). This link provides helpful suggestions for [resources](#) for Graduate Students during their time here at the University of Michigan. Another useful resource for Graduate Students is the Rackham Website for New Students. Rackham has specific websites with information dedicated to: [Programs of Study](#), [Admissions](#), [Financial Assistance](#), and [Graduate Orientation](#).

## Office of Graduate Affairs

The School of Kinesiology Office of Graduate Affairs is overseen by the Associate Dean of Graduate Affairs and managed by Charlene Ruloff (Director, Graduate Student Affairs), Tahirah McIntosh (Coordinator for Movement Science, Intraoperative Neurophysiology, and Athletic Training), and Hope Kurtz (Coordinator for Sport Management). The Office of Graduate Affairs assists current and prospective graduate students on matters relating to admissions, orientation, registration, degree audits, curriculum, financial aid, and events. The office can also provide referrals for guidance and counseling, career development, health issues and disabilities, financial concerns, and more.

## Graduate Committee

The Graduate Committee is comprised of representatives from each respective graduate program. Among other duties, the Graduate Committee oversees graduate student admissions. At the Master's level, student applications are assigned to the respective graduate program representative, who oversees the review and scoring of the applications. At the Doctoral level, the applicants should specify a particular Faculty Advisor(s) with whom they would like to work in their application, but they are not required to do so at the time of their application. The prospective Faculty Advisor will review the applications and agree or decline to supervise the student's Doctoral experience, should they be recommended for admissions. Applications without a designated Faculty Advisor may not be reviewed by the Graduate Committee for scoring. The Graduate Committee reviews the faculty supported applicants and provides a preliminary admission decision based on the application materials. Students are admitted to the Doctoral Program only if accepted by a member of the Kinesiology Graduate Faculty and meet the admissions requirements set forth by the School of Kinesiology and Rackham Graduate School.

The Graduate Committee is also responsible for maintaining oversight on the state of the Master's and Ph.D. Programs within the School. This includes, but is not limited to, matters concerning the curriculum, academic integrity, student performance, student conduct, and fairness and equity in Graduate Student policies, practices, and procedures. Once a year, each Doctoral student will participate in a progress review and evaluation with the Graduate Committee. The purpose of this review is to help students evaluate their progress towards the Doctoral Degree, identify any barriers to success, and keep the Graduate Committee apprised of successes and potential concerns within the Doctoral Program.

Continuation in the Doctoral Program is contingent upon the student making satisfactory progress toward the Degree. If satisfactory progress is not made, the Graduate Committee may recommend that a student be placed on probation or not continue. Funding of students by the School of Kinesiology is also contingent upon the student making satisfactory progress. If progress is not satisfactory at the time of the annual review or other extenuating circumstances, the Graduate Committee may recommend that financial support be withdrawn. Satisfactory progress is addressed in Rackham's online [explanation of academic policies](#).

## The Master's Degree

Kinesiology offers the Master of Science (M.S.) degree in *Athletic Training*, *Movement Science*, *Sport Management*, and *Intraoperative Neurophysiology*. All degrees are intended for students with exemplary academic or professional credentials. The Movement Science and Sport Management degree programs require the completion of at least 30 credits of graduate coursework, while the Athletic Training degree requires a minimum of 59 credit hours and the Intraoperative Neurophysiology degree requires a minimum of 52 credit hours. Following is a brief overview of the primary focus of the degree programs.

- **MS in Athletic Training** - A course-specific degree program designed to meet the requirements to sit for the Board of Certification Examination. Certification is required to practice athletic training in most states. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE).
- **MS in Movement Science** - A flexible degree program designed for students seeking advanced academic training in areas related to human movement (and its impact on health, human performance, society, and quality of life). The nature of the course content is drawn from biomedical and allied health sciences.
- **MS in Sport Management** - A course-specific degree program designed for students seeking advanced academic training in the business (i.e., management, marketing, economics, finance, law, and culture) of sport. The nature of the course content is drawn from social sciences.
- **MS in Intraoperative Neurophysiology** (Program begins Fall 2026) - A course-specific degree program designed to prepare students to successfully complete the certification exam in neurophysiological intraoperative monitoring (CNIM) offered by the American Board of Registration of Electroencephalographic and Evoked Potential Technologists (ABRET) upon graduation.

### Applying to the Master's Program

Kinesiology welcomes applications of students from all academic programs and disciplines. The Kinesiology Graduate Committee makes admission decisions. Early applications are encouraged. To apply to the Master's program, prospective students should submit the application electronically at [The Rackham Home Page](#) (Movement Science, Sport Management, and Intraoperative Neurophysiology) or ATCAS (Athletic Training). The Movement Science, Sport Management, and Intraoperative Neurophysiology application fee for United States citizens and those with permanent resident visa status is \$75. The fee for non-U.S. citizens is \$90. The Athletic Training application fee, through ATCAS, is \$90. This fee is non-refundable and subject to change.

Application materials include:

- **Statement of Purpose:** A concise, well-written statement about the applicant's academic preparation, practical experience, and/or research background related to the area(s) within Kinesiology to which the applicant is applying. The statement should also include the applicant's

career goals and how Kinesiology's Graduate Program will assist the applicant in meeting career and educational objectives. The Statement of Purpose is typically 500 words.

- **Personal Statement:** An overview of the applicant's background and life experiences, including cultural, geographical, financial, educational, or other opportunities or challenges which motivated the decision to pursue a Graduate Degree at the University of Michigan. The Personal Statement is typically 500 words.
- **Three Letters of Recommendation:** The applicant must submit three letters of support, including one or more from persons who can attest to the applicant's academic accomplishments (i.e., a course instructor). Letters should be submitted along with the *Recommendation for Admission Form* through the electronic application process.
- **Unofficial Transcripts:** A transcript of all the applicants' previous undergraduate and graduate coursework from all colleges and universities attended (including the University of Michigan and U-M extension graduate study center coursework) should be scanned and uploaded into the electronic application. Applicants must submit one **official** academic record/transcript from each institution where the applicant earned or will earn a Bachelor's, Master's, Professional, and Doctoral degree to Rackham Graduate School. Additional non-degree granting transcripts denoting courses and grades from other institutions may be submitted. Click [here](#) for details.
- **TOEFL Scores** (if applicable): Applicants whose native language is not English must provide TOEFL scores, regardless of their educational background. Minimum score for acceptance is 84 (internet version) for TOEFL and 6.5 for IELTS. A reasonable working knowledge of written and spoken English is a minimum requirement for entry for all applicants.
- **Program Specific Requirements**
  - **Athletic Training Only: Pre-requisite Coursework:** Applicants must show proof of completion for the following courses prior to beginning the program:
    - Biology (animal)
    - Chemistry (inorganic)
    - Physics (mechanics)
    - General Psychology
    - Human Anatomy
    - Human Physiology
    - Nutrition
    - Exercise Physiology

*Technical Standards:* Applicants must meet or request accommodations to meet the University of Michigan Athletic Training Program Technical Standards (Appendix B) for Admission.
  - **IONP Only: Pre-requisite Coursework:** Applicants must show proof of completion for the following courses prior to beginning the program:
    - Biology
    - Calculus (I)
    - Chemistry (inorganic)

- Physics (mechanics)
  - Physics (electricity and magnetism)
  - General psychology
  - Human anatomy (with lab)
  - Human physiology
  - Physiology (including focus on neural and cardiovascular components)
  - Statistics
- **Sport Management and IONP Only:** As part of our evaluation, we are asking applicants to submit a response to one interview question via a prerecorded video. This will help us gain further insights into your potential fit with the program. You will receive an email with detailed instructions after you submit your application.

**Deadline:** Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Early applications are strongly encouraged as some programs have limited positions.

## Faculty Advisors

Every Master's student will be assigned a Faculty Advisor who best matches the student's area of study. Faculty's engagement as advisors and mentors will be critical to students' overall success and their enjoyment of their graduate education experience. Students are strongly encouraged to meet with their Faculty Advisor at the beginning of the Fall semester (or their first semester of enrollment) to discuss registration and class selection. Although the role of Faculty Advisor may undoubtedly vary by Faculty and by student, Faculty Advisors will generally offer advice and assistance. The nature of Faculty Advisors' assistance could include but is not limited to the following:

- Discussing students' academic and career goals and aspirations related to graduate study.
- Offering suggestions that will be helpful to students' selection of graduate courses.
- Assisting students with identifying appropriate laboratory and/or research experiences and opportunities that will make meaningful contributions to their personal and professional development and their overall career readiness.

## Progress Toward Degree

At any point throughout the graduate student's progress, the School of Kinesiology may consider one or a combination of factors when determining the satisfactory progress of Master's students. Such factors include a student's: (a) coursework performance, (b) timely advancement towards degree completion, and (c) professional level of decorum and behavior.

### **(a) Coursework Performance:**

Students are expected to perform satisfactorily in their coursework throughout the duration of their enrollment. Satisfactory coursework performance is defined as maintaining an appropriate (as distinct from minimally acceptable) academic record. The following are the minimum requirements for achieving satisfactory coursework performance:

- Master's students must have a minimum overall/cumulative grade point average of **3.0** which is the equivalent of a "**B**" average.
- The minimally acceptable grade a master's student may receive in a course is a **B-**. Failure to receive an acceptable grade means that the course credit will not be applied toward requirements for the Master's degree.

**(b) Timely Advancement Towards Degree Completion:**

Some students are able to complete their course of study within two semesters, but all students are strongly encouraged to complete the Master's Degree within two years of enrollment. Students must complete the Master's Degree work within five consecutive years after first enrollment in the Rackham Graduate School. Students exceeding the five-year time limit must file a petition with Rackham Office of Records and Dissertations (OARD) for a time extension, giving reasons for the request and plans for the continuation/completion of the program.

**(c) Professional Level of Decorum and Behavior**

Graduate student matters of decorum and behavior may be brought to the Office of Graduate Affairs for review. The Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs is charged with evaluating the concern and gathering the relevant information. A communication may be issued to the student outlining the complaint, along with a path toward resolution. Depending on the severity, however, the complaint and relevant information may be brought to the Graduate Committee or other campus units for review and consideration, which may result in disciplinary action or discontinuation from the program.

**Deficiencies in Academic Progress:**

Kinesiology Master's students should periodically meet with their Graduate Affairs advisor to discuss their academic progress. The Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs (or their designate) will immediately notify students in writing when the student's academic performance falls below an acceptable level. Consequent to the deficiencies noted, the Graduate Committee, in consultation with the student, may recommend to Rackham that the student be placed on academic probation or another action deemed appropriate by the committee.

In response to a Master's student's academic deficiencies, Rackham may take any of the following actions:

- place a note of "unsatisfactory academic standing" on the student's academic record.
- place a continuing student on academic probation.
- require a student to withdraw from the University.
- not confer a degree or certificate.

## **Unsatisfactory Academic Standing**

The School of Kinesiology applies Rackham's policies of Academic Standing (Rackham's guidelines on Academic Standing can be found here: <https://rackham.umich.edu/academic-policies/section3/>) to all graduate students. Rackham will place a notation of "unsatisfactory academic standing" on the student's academic record at the end of the term in which a student's cumulative GPA falls below a B (3.0 on a 4-point scale); when a student fails to make timely advancements towards degree completion; or if the student does not demonstrate an ability to succeed within the program. A student with unsatisfactory academic standing will not be awarded a degree or graduate certificate, and may change programs and

transfer credits only with permission of the admitting program. Students who fail to make satisfactory progress will be in jeopardy of having Kinesiology funding withdrawn.

### **Academic Probation and Dismissal for Academic Reasons**

The Graduate Committee will normally place a Kinesiology Master's student on academic probation prior to recommending that the student be dismissed for academic reasons.

**Length of the probationary period.** The length of the probationary period in Kinesiology will be for at least two months, but will most likely be one semester. For a student placed on probation within two months of the end of the fall term, the probationary period will extend into the winter term for a total of at least two months. For a student placed on probation within two months of the end of the winter term, the probationary period may include the spring or summer half-terms or the following fall term, for a total of at least two months. A student may be placed on probation starting in the spring or summer half term for a minimum of two months, and does not need to be enrolled during these half terms. Probation will remain in effect until the conditions are remedied or the student is dismissed.

**Notification of academic probation.** The Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs will notify the student and Rackham Graduate School of the probation. This notice will explain: (a) the reasons for the probation, (b) the period of probation (the start and end dates), (c) the status of funding support, (d) conditions, if any, for returning to satisfactory standing, and (e) options for the student to appeal.

**Funding during probation.** A student on probation will continue to be funded at the same level as before the probationary period. If a student were receiving funding prior to being put on probation, funding will be continued through the probationary period.

**End of the probationary period and dismissal.** At the end of the probation, in consultation with Rackham, the Graduate Committee may either return the student's status to good academic standing, extend the probationary period, or recommend that the student be dismissed from the program. The Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs will notify Rackham of a recommendation for dismissal.

**Option to appeal academic probation or dismissal.** Students will be notified of options to appeal academic probation or dismissal. The Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs will convene a separate committee, typically the Graduate Committee, to consider appeals. Students may use Rackham Graduate School's Academic Dispute Resolution process only for procedural issues of fair and equal treatment under the policy of the program, and not to appeal the academic reasons for the decision.

<https://rackham.umich.edu/policy/section9/>

## **Final Master's Degree Check**

Students must apply for graduation through Wolverine Access for their Master's Degree. Students should apply within the first two weeks of the final term of registration. A review of students' coursework will be performed to determine if all requirements have been met and a minimum of 3.0 GPA (B) on a 4-point scale has been maintained. The minimally acceptable grade in all coursework is a B-. Failure to receive an acceptable grade means that course credit will not be applied toward requirements for the Master's Degree. A grade must be submitted for all previous incompletes.

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN ATHLETIC TRAINING

## Overview

The Master of Science in Athletic Training degree program develops entry-level allied health professionals who will be contributing members to the field of athletic training. Through a combination of course work and clinical experiences the program prepares students for entry-level work as an athletic trainer in secondary schools, colleges, universities, sports medicine clinics, professional sports programs, industrial settings, and other healthcare environments. The program is accredited by the Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education (CAATE). Students who complete the Athletic Training Program meet the requirements to sit for the Board of Certification Examination. Certification is required to practice athletic training in most states.

## Degree Requirements

Once enrolled into the Athletic Training Education Program students are required to successfully complete five semesters of educational work to be eligible for graduation. The program consists of a minimum of 59 hours of didactic course work coupled with clinical experiences. Required coursework is listed in the academic plan (Appendix C).

Outside of traditional classroom work, each athletic training student is required to complete four, semester-long clinical education experiences under the supervision of a preceptor. Clinical education experiences provide the student with the opportunity for experiential learning and to practice and apply the entry-level clinical skills associated with the practice of athletic training. Clinical education experiences are completed at both on-campus and off-campus clinical sites.

**Additional degree requirements can be found in the Athletic Training Handbook.**

## Thesis Option (not required):

A student with a B+ average for the first term of graduate work within the Kinesiology Athletic Training program will be permitted to proceed with completing an Athletic Training Thesis (KINESLGY 619). In addition to a Thesis Advisor, two other Faculty members must serve on the Thesis Committee. Students considering writing a thesis are strongly encouraged to discuss possible topics with potential Thesis Advisors soon after entering the Program.

In order for the student's thesis to be recognized at the Kinesiology commencement ceremony, the student, must complete the walk form on the Kinesiology commencement website page indicating their thesis title, no later than April 1st.

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN MOVEMENT SCIENCE

## Overview

The Movement Science Master's Degree program is an in-depth study of human movement from different perspectives. The strength of this program is its flexibility; working directly with Faculty Advisors, students can design programs to meet their particular areas of interest. The minimum number of credit hours to complete this degree is 30. The exact number will vary according to students' interests and Faculty Advisor's requirements.

## Degree Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours for the Master of Science in Movement Science.

### Requirements

- **MOVESCI 615** (Philosophy of Science and Research)
- One graduate level statistics course
- **Movement Science electives** (9+ credits): Students must select at least 9 hours of MOVESCI coursework. Three of these hours may be for independent research (MOVESCI 590 & 591) or internships (MOVESCI 586)
- Note: A maximum of 9 independent research (MOVESCI 590 & 591) or internship (MOVESCI 586) credits can be taken within the 30 credit hour requirement.

The 30 credit hours requirement may also include credits from cognate work outside of Movement Science.

## Thesis Option (not required):

A student with a B+ average for the first term of graduate work within the Kinesiology Movement Science program will be permitted to proceed with completing a Movement Science Thesis (619). In addition to a Thesis Advisor, two other Faculty members must serve on the Thesis Committee. Students considering writing a thesis are strongly encouraged to discuss possible topics with potential Thesis Advisors soon after entering the Program.

In order for the student's thesis to be recognized at the Kinesiology commencement ceremony, the student must complete the walk form on the Kinesiology commencement website page indicating their thesis title, no later than April 1st.

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN SPORT MANAGEMENT

## Overview

Students in the Sport Management Master's Degree program study critical areas/components of knowledge required to successfully compete for careers within the sport enterprise and related industries.

## Degree Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours for the Master of Science in Sport Management, which include the following requirements:

### Core Curriculum (15 hours)

- **SM 503** Legal Aspects of Sport (3 credits)
- **SM 509** Financial Management for the Sport Industry (3 credits)
- **SM 532** Organizational Behavior & Human Resources (3 credits)
- **SM 514** Strategic Management in Sport (3 credits)
- **SM 550** Marketing Management for the Sport Industry (3 credits)

### Other Requirements (15+ hours)

- **SM 515** Philosophy of Science and Research (3 credits)
- **Sport Management elective(s)** (3+ credits)
- **Graduate-level statistics** (3-4 credits of SM 560 or other approved course)

Note: The remainder of the 30 credits must be from appropriate graduate-level courses offered by the School of Kinesiology or by other UM graduate programs.

## Thesis Option (not required):

A student with a B+ average for the first term of graduate work within the Kinesiology Sport Management program will be permitted to proceed with completing a Sport Management Thesis (619). In addition to a Thesis Advisor, two other Faculty members must serve on the Thesis Committee. Students considering writing a thesis are strongly encouraged to discuss possible topics with potential Thesis Advisors soon after entering the Program.

In order for the student's thesis to be recognized at the Kinesiology commencement ceremony, the student must complete the walk form on the Kinesiology commencement website page indicating their thesis title, no later than April 1st.

# MASTER OF SCIENCE IN INTRAOPERATIVE NEUROPHYSIOLOGY

(Beginning Fall 2026)

## Overview

Students in the Intraoperative Neurophysiology Master's Degree program will develop the knowledge and clinical skill base to provide patient care.

## Degree Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of 52 credit hours for the Master of Science in Intraoperative Neurophysiology, which include the following requirements:

### Core Curriculum (37 credit hours)

- NEUROSCI 570 - Human Neuroanat (3 credits)
- NEUROSCI 571 - Human Neuroanat Lab (2 credits)
- IONP 520 - Neurophysiology of Human Movement (3 credits)
- IONP 562 – Electrophys - Electrophysiology & Lab (4 credits)
- IONP 563 - Intraop Neurophys - Intraoperative Neurophysiology for Spine & Otolaryngology (5 credits)
- IONP 564 - Surg Neurophys - Surgical Neurophysiology Skills Lab (3 credits)
- IONP 565 - Intraop Neurophys - Intraoperative Neurophysiology for Vascular Surgery (4 credits)
- IONP 663 - Neuroimaging (3 credits)
- IONP 665 - Intraop Neurophys - Intraoperative Neurophysiology for Oncology (4 credits)
- IONP 667 - Princ Neuroanesth – Principles of Neuroanesthesia (3 credits)

### Other Requirements

- Clinical Experience in IONP (15 credits)
- Elective (3 credits)

\*There is currently no thesis option for IONP masters students.

# Certificate: Physical Activity and Nutrition

## Overview

Students in the **Physical Activity and Nutrition (PAN)** Certificate will focus on issues related to the effects of physical activity (and inactivity), nutrition, obesity and metabolic irregularities and their relationship to disease prevention, health promotion, and wellness enhancement. Many of the health problems we face today require a multifaceted approach, and this certificate program provides students with the necessary tools to formulate important solutions.

A student in a U-M Doctoral or Master's program must complete at least one term of coursework in good academic standing in a regular program before requesting admission to add a certificate. To apply: Complete the [Rackham application form](#) with required signatures and return it the Office of Kinesiology Graduate Affairs ([kingradcomm@umich.edu](mailto:kingradcomm@umich.edu)) or Dr. Pete Bodary ([pfbodary@umich.edu](mailto:pfbodary@umich.edu)).

Complete the online [PAN Certificate supplementary application form](#) and submit it electronically.

## Requirements for the Certificate in Physical Activity and Nutrition

To earn the graduate certificate in Physical Activity and Nutrition (PAN), students must complete 9 credits from required program courses and at least 3 elective credits from other existing courses in the School of Kinesiology and the School of Public Health.

### Required Courses (12 credits)

- Exercise Physiology (MOVESCI 640 – 3 credits)
- Nutrition (NUTR 630 – 3 credits)

These two courses primarily focus on fundamental issues related to the impact of exercise/physical activity (MOVESCI 640) and nutritional factors (NUTR 630) on health and disease prevention.

- Physical Activity and Nutrition Assessment and Prescription (MOVESCI 643- 3 credits)

This course integrates foundational information learned in both MOVESCI 540 and NUTR 630 in a clinical context, thereby providing the framework for students to put this information into practice. Students will be required to take MOVESCI 640 and NUTR 630 before enrolling in "Physical Activity and Nutrition Assessment and Prescription".

- Three credits of elective coursework can be taken at any point in the program and are selected in consultation with the Faculty Advisor. In accordance with the Rackham "double counting" policy, 3 credits of course work within the PAN certificate program will be allowed to count toward the students' graduate degree (e.g., MS, MA, MPH, or PhD).

# The Ph.D. Program in Kinesiology

## Overview

The Doctoral Programs in Kinesiology lead to a Ph.D., the highest degree awarded by the School of Kinesiology and the University of Michigan: a Ph.D. in *Movement Science* or a Ph.D. in *Sport Management*. The Doctoral Program seeks to develop scholarly and research competence, and culminates in an original Doctoral dissertation that adds to the body of knowledge in Kinesiology. The Doctoral program is designed for students who intend to make their careers as scholars, teachers, researchers, and professionals in Kinesiology, Movement Science, Sport Management, or allied fields.

Regardless of their degree program (Movement Science or Sport Management) Doctoral students must: (a) successfully complete courses in Kinesiology, as well as cognate courses from other units, (b) complete a minimum of 30 pre-candidacy credits (10 additional credits for those without a Master's degree) beyond the Master's level, and (c) satisfactorily pass Qualifying Examinations before advancing to candidacy. After the advancement to candidacy, Doctoral students must complete and defend an original Doctoral dissertation. A minimum of 50 credits, including pre-candidacy and candidacy coursework, are required to receive the Ph.D.

All Doctoral students work closely with a Faculty Advisor from the beginning of their degree program. Under their Faculty Advisor's guidance, Doctoral students are expected to take relevant coursework, engage in relevant and ongoing research experience (via lab rotations, independent study projects, etc.), generate research ideas, and complete a research dissertation prior to graduation. To facilitate success in these regards, Doctoral students and their Faculty Advisors will form a Guidance Committee, Qualifying Examination Committee, and a Dissertation Committee to provide advice and evaluate student progress at successive stages of the program.

A principal goal of Doctoral student training is the achievement of competence as an independent scholar. This entails not only proficiency in research but in the dissemination of knowledge. Skills in knowledge dissemination vary by discipline and each Doctoral student's program will be tailored to develop these critical skills.

## Admission to the Ph.D. Program

Applications to the Kinesiology Ph.D. programs will undergo a holistic review, consisting of a number of elements, metrics, and factors. Following is an overview of the Ph.D. admission requirements.

- A. An applicant to the Ph.D. program should, in most circumstances, have a Master's Degree before commencing the PhD program. If the Master's Degree is in a specialization other than Kinesiology or a closely related field, the student may be asked to complete certain prerequisite coursework in Kinesiology. This coursework would be determined at the time of admission, taking into account the applicant's background and interests. Prerequisite coursework does not count towards the Ph.D.

Exceptions: Ph.D. program applicants without a Master's Degree may be admitted to the program at the discretion of the Graduate Committee. To be eligible for consideration to waive the requirement for a Master's Degree, at least one of the

following conditions must be met:

1. Applicants must have outstanding academic credentials with undergraduate training directly related to the discipline in which they are choosing to pursue a Ph.D. (e.g., psychology, engineering, molecular biology, chemistry, economics, management, or marketing).
2. Applicants must have demonstrated extensive work in a domain relevant laboratory, clinical setting, and/or business context demonstrating their ability to pursue research at the Doctoral level.

Undergraduate students entering the Doctoral Program without a Master's Degree will be expected to exceed the minimum of 30 credit hours of Doctoral coursework as necessary to achieve the upper level coursework necessary for their field of research. The Guidance Committee will determine the extent and nature of this additional coursework. This will consist of at least 10 credits beyond the 30 credits required of Doctoral students who possess a Master's degree. The additional 10 credit hours can be any graduate level course or experience and is up to the Faculty Guidance Committee.

- B. All applicants should have at least a B plus (B+) average (3.3 on a 4-point scale, or 6.0 on a 9-point scale) in previous graduate work. The relevance of previous graduate work to Movement Science or Sport Management should be clearly indicated in the application.
- C. Applicants whose native language is not English must provide TOEFL or IELTS scores (regardless of previous schools attended). Minimum score for acceptance is 84 (internet version) for TOEFL, and 6.5 for IELTS. A reasonable working knowledge of written and spoken English is a minimum requirement for entry for all students.
- D. As part of the application process, a minimum of three letters of recommendation along with the *Recommendation for Admission Form* must be submitted through the electronic application system. Letters of recommendation should be submitted from professors and/or professionals who are in careers related to interests of the applicant and who know the applicant's academic background well.
- E. It is preferred, but not required, that the applicant have contacted and received support for advising from a faculty member whose research interests match the applicant's. In cases where a faculty member has not been contacted, the applicant can name a faculty member with similar research interests, but **the advisor(s) and the applicant must agree to the advising arrangement before admission can be granted**. Please note that an advising arrangement prior to applying does not imply a commitment for admissions or financial support of a student.
- F. Applicants must submit a *Statement of Purpose*. This statement should be a concise (approximately 500 words), well-written statement about the applicant's academic preparation, practical experience, and/or research background related to the area(s) within Movement Science or Sport Management that the applicant is interested in studying. This statement should also include the applicant's career goals and how the respective Graduate Program will help the applicant meet career and educational objectives.

- G. Applicants must submit a *Personal Statement*. This statement (approximately 500 words) should provide an overview of the applicant's background and life experiences, including cultural, geographical, financial, educational, or other opportunities or challenges which motivated the decision to pursue a graduate degree at the University of Michigan.
- H. It is strongly advisable for Ph.D. applicants to visit the campus and meet prospective Faculty Advisors and current students in the Doctoral program. Initial contact may be with the prospective Faculty Advisor or the Office of Graduate Student Affairs. Applicants should provide at least two weeks' notice to set up such a visit.
- I. Decisions regarding admission to the Doctoral Program are made by the Graduate Committee. In some instances, Faculty Advisors and/or the Graduate Committee may request an interview with the applicants (either in person or online mechanisms) to attain additional insight to determine their admissibility. Early applications are strongly encouraged, as the number of accepted students is very selective and thus limited. **Application Deadline:** A number of campus-wide fellowships are decided early in the calendar year. Ph.D. applicants who wish to be considered for funding should apply by December 1st.

## Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree

Minimum requirements for completing the Ph.D. Degrees include Movement Science or Sport Management coursework, cognate coursework, a research rotation, successfully completing the qualifying examination, and the dissertation. The program of study for the initial period of coursework is determined in consultation with the Faculty Advisor, and must be approved by the student's Guidance Committee. General information on graduate student life at Michigan is available on the website of the [Horace H. Rackham School for Graduate Studies](#).

## Mentoring Agreement and Conversation Plan

During the first year in the Doctoral program, each Doctoral student and their faculty advisor are required to complete the School of Kinesiology [conversation plan](#) (during first term) and create a mentoring plan. Additional mentoring workshops/seminars (e.g., Rackham's MORE mentoring workshop) may be required. Documents must be submitted to the Graduate Student Affairs Director.

## Guidance Committee

During the first year in the Doctoral program, each Doctoral student will, in consultation with their Faculty Advisor, convene a Guidance Committee consisting of a minimum of three Faculty members. At least two of the Guidance Committee members must be from Kinesiology (primary Faculty Advisor plus one other Kinesiology Faculty member), and at least one member from outside the School of Kinesiology, but at the University of Michigan (cognate area).

The Doctoral student and Faculty Advisor should plan the student's program of study, including specific coursework and possible research rotations. A [Guidance Committee Plan](#) template is available for planning and documentation. Once completed, the student should circulate this document to the other Guidance Committee members. The Guidance Committee will meet with the student and evaluate their proposed program of study, taking into account program requirements, the student's interests and background, and any special opportunities that may be available. Following all revisions and full

Guidance Committee approval, the finalized Guidance Committee Plan will be placed in the student's file and circulated to the Guidance Committee members. The Guidance Committee and Guidance Committee Plan should be submitted to the Office of Graduate Affairs by the end of the second term in the program.

## Coursework

The following are minimum coursework requirements for the Ph.D. Programs in Kinesiology. Please note that additional courses are required by the Guidance Committee and Faculty Advisor, or for those entering without a Master's degree, depending on each student's goals and background:

- KINESLGY 616 Professional Skills for Research Scientists (3 credits), or equivalent.
- At least two advanced statistics courses (e.g., BIostat 553 Applied Biostatistics; STAT 400 Applied Statistical Methods; OMS 501 Applied Business Statistics; PSYCH 613 Statistical Methods; PSYCH 614 Advanced Statistical Methods, or others).
- At least four additional graduate-level courses – two of these four courses must be offered by the Ph.D. program (i.e., Movement Science or Sport Management) and cannot be independent study or lab rotation courses.
- At least three credits of the remaining coursework must be taken in a cognate unit, i.e., a unit other than Kinesiology. This meets The Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies' minimum requirement for cognate coursework, although the Guidance Committee may specify additional classes.
- KINESLGY 600 Graduate Seminar in Movement Science.
- Doctoral students are expected to participate in the School of Kinesiology hosted speaker events, Faculty Research Presentations, Job Talks, etc.

### Policy for Waiving Required Ph.D. Courses

The Graduate Faculty affirmed that the required courses for the Ph.D. Program should stand as currently described. However, a required course can be waived by petition ([Petition for Modification or Waiver of Regulation Form](#)) to the Graduate Committee.

## Research Rotations

Doctoral students are required to complete one research rotation prior to beginning their third year (5<sup>th</sup> semester) of study. The purpose of the research rotation is to broaden and deepen the student's research experience by significant involvement in research activities other than those of the Faculty Advisor. For some students, the rotation may be their first exposure to a research project. For more experienced students, it may be a project culminating in a presentation at a national meeting or publication in a peer reviewed journal. Research rotations may complement the student's interests (for example, learning a relevant research technique) or may provide contrast (for example, pursuing a different topic or studying a primary interest from a different disciplinary point of view.)

The research rotation should involve background reading, acquisition of techniques novel to the student, interaction with other research group members, interaction with the Faculty Supervisor, formation of hypotheses, data collection, data analysis and interpretation, and a statement of the significance of the project to the larger questions in that field of research. In addition to the research

rotation, it is expected that the student will be involved in the research activities of the Faculty Advisor throughout the student's tenure as a Doctoral student.

The research rotation can occur at UM or a different university or institution. The research rotation cannot be with the student's Faculty Advisor. The number of credits can range from three (3) to six (6). The registration of the research rotation will either be for KINESLGY 685, or if outside Kinesiology, a comparable course in the department of the Faculty member serving as supervisor. The grade for the course will be 'satisfactory' or 'unsatisfactory'.

The research rotation may be conducted in one or two semesters. It is expected that the student will assist with or complete a project during the research rotation that aligns with the Faculty supervisor's research and culminates in a written document. Examples of research rotation projects include an abstract submitted to a meeting, a manuscript or portion thereof submitted to a peer-reviewed journal, or a thesis submitted to the Faculty supervisor. To establish student and Faculty supervisor expectations, a [Research Rotation Contract](#) must be completed and added to the student's file prior to the beginning of the rotation.

## Qualifying Examination

### **Overview of Qualifying Examinations:**

The purpose of the qualifying examination is for the student to *demonstrate competency in the primary area of study and the broader knowledge and context in which the area of study is situated within the overall field*. Doctoral students must successfully pass a Qualifying Examination, which attests to their readiness to advance to candidacy as determined by their Qualifying Examination Committee.

***It is expected that students will complete their Qualifying Examination prior to the beginning of their fifth semester, typically near the end of their second year in the Doctoral program.***

There are two components of the exam: (a) a written component and (b) an oral component. The written component of the exam may take different forms depending on the discretion of the Faculty Advisor and the Qualifying Examination Committee, with input from the student (e.g., take home exams, closed exams, grant proposals, review papers, etc.). The written component of the exam is to be followed by an oral defense before the entire Qualifying Examination Committee. Students must be given the opportunity to complete both components of the exam, and in most circumstances, these should occur within two weeks of each other. The following criteria apply regardless of the format the written component of the exam takes:

1. Appropriate knowledge of the field or fields of study for that student (breadth and depth is defined by the student's Qualifying Examination Committee)
2. Ability to integrate information from various disciplines
3. Ability to critically evaluate the literature in terms of both substance and methodology
4. Ability to solve problems creatively
5. Ability to articulate the significance of the chosen area of inquiry

While the Qualifying Examination Committee has broad discretion as to the form the examination takes, it is expected to rigorously adhere to the following standards:

1. The exam (projects, assignments, papers, etc.) will be graded by all members of the Qualifying Examination Committee.
2. All students will orally defend the written component of their exam before the entire Qualifying Examination Committee.
3. The Qualifying Examination Committee has three potential evaluation options that include pass, fail, or conditional pass. Conditional Pass may be used when the Committee members believe that one or more elements of the exam were not adequate to earn a Pass, but the sense of the Committee is that this may be remedied with additional work (e.g., re-writing a portion of the exam, reading and reviewing additional books or papers to address deficiencies in knowledge, or other actions the Committee feels are in the best interests of the student).
4. Students who have been deemed to have failed the exam will be given one more chance to pass it. Students who fail to pass the exam on the second attempt will not continue in the Doctoral program.
5. It is expected that most students will complete the Qualifying Examination near the end of their second year in the Doctoral program and prior to the start of their third year (5<sup>th</sup> semester).

**Role of Faculty Advisor in Qualifying Examinations:**

Faculty Advisors must take an active role in helping their students choose appropriate Qualifying Examination Committee members. Faculty Advisors must assist the Committee members in structuring the expectations for student performance and by ensuring adequate contact between Committee members and their students. Further, Faculty Advisors should help students by ensuring that they are aware of these expectations. As students prepare for their Qualifying Examinations, Faculty Advisors should help guarantee that the content (e.g., reading lists prepared by the student) represents neither too narrow nor too broad of a focus.

**Composition of Qualifying Examination Committee:**

The composition of the Qualifying Examination Committee includes two faculty members from Kinesiology and at least one Cognate Faculty member from another unit at the University of Michigan. The composition of the Qualifying Examination Committee must be approved prior to the beginning of the Qualifying Examination. Once the process of the exam is engaged, no alteration of the Committee will be allowed except in cases where a member of the Committee is no longer able to serve (e.g., extended illness, death, or separation from the University of Michigan).

**Ensurer of Equity and Fairness (EFE) Designee:**

To ensure the fairness and equity in the Qualifying Examination process and in the assessment of all students, a member of the Qualifying Examination Committee will be designated to serve as the Ensurer of Fairness and Equity (EFE) and approved by the Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs. The EFE must be a tenured member of the Qualifying Examination Committee with voting/evaluation rights, but may not be the Faculty Advisor. The EFE must be a Kinesiology Faculty member. If there are no eligible committee members (e.g., all members are non-tenured) the Associate Dean or designee will serve as the (non-voting) EFE. The EFE must review the written exam question(s) (assessments, activities, etc.) prior to the exam, ensure that the written response is in accordance with the exam question(s), and attend the oral component of the exam. In addition to fulfilling the regular roles and responsibilities required of Qualifying Exam Committee members, the EFE will also ensure that: (a) the requirements (criteria and standards) of the exam are being met and (b) the examination process is fair and correct.

**Qualifying Examination Process:**

1. Faculty Advisors must complete the *Qualifying Examination Committee Approval Form* (see Appendix A) and submit it to the Director of Graduate Student Affairs (for approval by the Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs) at least 10 weeks prior to the beginning of the examination.
  
2. The Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs must approve the Qualifying Examination Committee, including the EFE. In cases where there is a conflict of interest between the Faculty Advisor and the EFE, the Graduate Committee and the Dean may be consulted for an appropriate alternate.
  
3. All members of the Qualifying Examination Committee must meet with the student individually or collectively at least eight weeks prior to the beginning of the exam to discuss the format, nature/content, preparation materials/resources, and expectations of the exam. All members of the Committee must attend a meeting with the student. In rare instances (i.e., unavoidable schedule conflicts, special situations, extenuating circumstances, etc.) Committee members may participate in the meeting via telephone or video/computer/technology conferencing measures. In some instances individual follow-up meetings between the student and Committee members may be necessary. Once the exam dates, format, content, criteria, preparation materials, etc. have been determined, a completed and signed *Qualifying Examination Meeting Form* (see Appendix B) must be submitted to the Kinesiology Director of Graduate Student Affairs. This form must be submitted no later than one week after the Qualifying Examination Meeting(s).
  
4. No later than two weeks after the Qualifying Examination Meeting, the Faculty Advisor must ensure that the student is aware of the exam expectations and help guarantee that the content (e.g., reading lists prepared by the student) represents neither too narrow nor too broad of a focus (as stated in the Kinesiology Graduate Bulletin). If the student does not receive the finalized content expectations within this time frame, they must notify the EFE immediately. Additionally, the EFE must be notified immediately of any occurrences, conditions, or special circumstances experienced by the student or Committee members that require (or may require) a change or modification to the proposed exam. Any changes in the original Qualifying Exam must also be communicated in writing to the Associate Dean.
  
5. All exam questions, activities, or assessments must be submitted to the EFE at least one week prior to the beginning of the exam. The EFE will review the questions and consult/confer with the Faculty Advisor to determine/ensure that the questions assess the five required examination criteria (as outlined in the Kinesiology Graduate Bulletin and at the outset of this document). In case of dissenting views on whether the questions/assessments meet the criteria, the Associate Dean, the Graduate Committee, and/or Dean may be consulted.
  
6. Within two weeks of completing the written component of the exam (i.e., questions, activities, assessments, etc.), the student must complete the oral component of the exam before the entire Qualifying Examination Committee (including the EFE). Only under extenuating circumstances will Committee members be allowed to participate in the oral examination via telephone or video/computer/technology conferencing. The Faculty Advisor must be present in person for the oral examination.

7. The Qualifying Examination Committee will evaluate the student's collective written and oral performance on the exam as *Pass*, *Fail*, or *Conditional Pass* (as outlined in the Kinesiology Graduate Bulletin). The Faculty Advisor must submit the *Qualifying Examination Committee Evaluation Form* (see Appendix C) and the student's response to the written exam to the Kinesiology Director of Graduate Student Affairs no later than one week after the oral examination.
8. Students who have been deemed to have failed the exam on the initial attempt will be given one more chance to pass it. Students who fail to pass the exam on the second attempt will not be allowed to continue in the Doctoral program.
9. In the case of an initial exam evaluation of Conditional Pass, once it has been determined that the conditions either have been met or have not been met, the Qualifying Examination Committee must complete the *Qualifying Examination Conditional Evaluation Form* (see Appendix D). Depending on the nature of the conditions, the Qualifying Examination Committee may be required to meet in person to re-assess the student's performance, or the assessment may take place via electronic submissions and reviews. The EFE should be present at the meeting(s) if applicable and/or copied on electronic re-submissions. The *Qualifying Examination Conditional Evaluation Form* along with the revised written exam (if applicable) must be submitted to the Kinesiology Director of Graduate Student Affairs no later than one week after the final decision (regarding the assessment/evaluation of the conditions) has been rendered. **Students cannot advance to PhD Candidate status until all aspects of the Conditional Pass have been met and the Qualifying Examination Committee issues a Passing evaluation.**
10. The EFE will also evaluate the overall Qualifying Examination process via the *Qualifying Examination Ensurer of Fairness and Equity Designee Evaluation Form* (see Appendix E). The EFE must share the nature of the evaluation with the Faculty Advisor at the conclusion of the evaluation process, and must submit the evaluation form to the Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs no later than one week after the final evaluation has been determined.
11. The Kinesiology Graduate Committee may be consulted for resolutions in cases where there are dissenting perspectives between the Faculty Advisor, Qualifying Examination Committee, and/or EFE regarding whether: (a) the examination met the Kinesiology requirements (criteria and standards), and/or (b) the examination process was fair. The Dean of Kinesiology may also be consulted as needed to resolve dissenting perspectives of the examination.

Students must access the relevant Qualifying Examination forms from the Coordinator of Graduate Student Affairs: <https://www.kines.umich.edu/student-services/forms-bulletins#graduate-general>

At the completion of the Qualifying Examination, Committee members will sign the appropriate forms and indicate their decision regarding the student's performance as satisfactory or unsatisfactory. The written component of the Examination must be attached to the form. The Qualifying Examination forms and the final Qualifying Examination will be placed in the student's file. Satisfactory passing of the Qualifying Examination, as well as completion of most coursework, qualifies a student to advance to candidacy. The Director of Graduate Student Affairs will complete the [Recommendation for Candidacy Form](#) and forward the request to the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies. <https://secure.rackham.umich.edu/OARD/atc/index.php/ATCForm/add>

### **Sample timeline for the Qualifying Examination**

Below is an example timeline for the completion of the Qualifying Examination. Students should work closely with their faculty mentor and the Qualifying Examination Committee on a timeline specific to their circumstances.

- 1<sup>st</sup> week March:
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week March:
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week March
- 4<sup>th</sup> week March: Qualifying Examination Committee formed and approved. Student submits Qualifying Examination Committee Approval Form.
  
- 1<sup>st</sup> week April:
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week April: Qualifying Examination Committee meets with student and finalizes the format, nature/content, preparation materials/resources, and expectations of the exam. Student submits Qualifying Examination Meeting Form.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week April:
- 4<sup>th</sup> week April: Content for the Qualifying Examination is finalized.
  
- 1<sup>st</sup> week May:
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week May:
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week May:
- 4<sup>th</sup> week May:
  
- 1<sup>st</sup> week June: Exam questions, activities, or assessments submitted to the EFE by committee members.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> week June: Qualifying Examination – written component.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> week June:
- 4<sup>th</sup> week June: Qualifying Examination – oral component.
  
- 1<sup>st</sup> week July: Faculty mentor submits Qualifying Examination Committee Evaluation Form and the student's responses to Written Examination, and EFE submits Qualifying Examination Fairness and Equity Evaluation Form.

## **Candidacy and Dissertation**

When a Doctoral student has advanced to candidacy, they will make a formal dissertation proposal, to be approved by the Dissertation Committee. The Dissertation Committee must consist of at least four Faculty members, at least two of whom must be from Kinesiology and at least one of whom must be a cognate member outside Kinesiology but at the University of Michigan. The student's Faculty Advisor serves as the chair of the Dissertation Committee, and the [composition of the committee](#) must be approved by the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies before the dissertation proposal. The form to create the [Dissertation Committee](#) is available from Rackham's website.

Rackham Dissertation Committee Guidelines: <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/downloads/oard-dissertation-committee-guidelines.pdf>

Dissertation Committee Form: <http://www.rackham.umich.edu/downloads/oard-dissertation-committee-form.pdf>

***The first attempt of the Dissertation Proposal is expected to take place within 12 months of passing the qualifying exams and should take place at least six months prior to the dissertation defense.***

Students who are unable to formally present their dissertation proposal to their dissertation committee within 12 months of their qualifying exam will submit a plan outlining the proposal timeline to the Office of Graduate Affairs. Extensions to completing the proposal will be considered under special circumstances and with approval from the Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs in consultation with the Graduate Committee.

The Dissertation Proposal is intended for the Doctoral student to receive feedback on a study (i.e., the dissertation project) that is unique, achievable, and answers an original question within the field of study. The format, content and length of the Dissertation Proposal document are established by the student, chair, and committee members. The document may take on the form of traditional chapters (e.g., introduction, literature review, and methods), a grant application, manuscripts, or any other structure deemed appropriate and acceptable by the student, chair, and committee members. Regardless of the format, the proposal should include a tentative timetable and outline any necessary resources required to conduct the research (space, equipment, travel, etc.).

The written dissertation proposal should be submitted to the Dissertation Committee for review a minimum of 10 calendar days prior to the oral presentation. Each Doctoral student is required to make a formal oral presentation of the Dissertation Proposal to the Dissertation Committee in a closed door/private session. A separate public presentation may also be held at the discretion of the Dissertation Committee and student. The student, dissertation chair, and committee members should strive for an in-person meeting, but remote (e.g., Zoom) meetings are allowed. The closed door and public (if selected) sessions must be held in the School of Kinesiology Building or Rackham Graduate School and must be held during normal business hours. Any deviation from this policy must be requested via petition to the Associate Dean of Graduate Affairs.

The Dissertation Committee is to evaluate the written document and the presentation through written and oral questioning/comments. Following conclusion of the oral presentation and discussion, the Dissertation Committee can: 1) PASS the Doctoral student with no changes to the proposal, 2) PASS WITH REVISIONS to the proposal document, 3) request the student REPEAT the presentation following changes to the proposal document. All committee members must indicate a PASS or PASS WITH REVISIONS for the student to have successfully completed the dissertation proposal. Committee members indicating PASS WITH REVISIONS or REPEAT must provide the student with a list of concerns to be addressed in the subsequent proposal meeting. A student may repeat the presentation as many times as necessary for all committee members to indicate PASS or PASS WITH REVISIONS. The Dissertation Committee's decision will be documented on the [Dissertation Proposal Approval Form](#), which must be signed and dated by all committee members. Hard and/or electronic signatures are acceptable. The final dissertation proposal document, along with the signed Dissertation Proposal Approval Form must be submitted to the Kinesiology Office of Graduate Affairs (Director of Graduate

Student Affairs). Research proposals that use animal or human subjects must receive approval from the appropriate Institutional Review Board prior to commencing the research.

Once the Dissertation Proposal has been approved, the Dissertation Advisor(s) will supervise the conduct and progress of the student's Dissertation work. Students must apprise the Dissertation Committee of their progress and modifications made to their work. If necessary, the Dissertation Committee can be reconvened, for example, to approve substantial changes to an original proposal.

## Dissertation Defense

The format of the Dissertation is decided upon by the faculty advisor, dissertation committee, and student and may be either a traditional dissertation document or a compilation of thematically linked published or publication-ready manuscripts. The Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies publishes useful [dissertation resource suggestions](#) on its website. A resource that is especially useful is the [Dissertation Handbook](#). Once the Dissertation document has been approved by the Dissertation Committee, an oral defense takes place. At the time of the Dissertation Defense, the Dissertation must be of publication-quality (as judged by the Dissertation Advisor and Committee). The first portion of the Dissertation Defense is a public lecture (presentation of the work), after which the Dissertation Committee meets with the candidate in a closed session. The time and place of the public presentation must be announced at least two weeks in advance to allow Kinesiology Faculty and Graduate Students to plan to attend if interested. Once satisfied with the Dissertation Defense, the Dissertation Committee recommends to the Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies to confer the Ph.D. degree.

<http://www.rackham.umich.edu/downloads/oard-dissertation-handbook.pdf>

Please also consult the [Rackham Graduate School](#) for information on various Dissertation requirements.

## Satisfactory Progress Toward Degree

At any point throughout the graduate student's progress, the School of Kinesiology may consider one or a combination of factors when determining the satisfactory progress of Doctoral students. Such factors include a student's: (a) coursework performance, (b) timely advancement towards degree completion, (c) where appropriate, satisfactory teaching/instruction, and (d) professional level of decorum and behavior.

### (a) **Coursework Performance:**

Students are expected to perform satisfactory in their coursework throughout the duration of their enrollment. Satisfactory coursework performance is defined as maintaining an appropriate (as distinct from minimally acceptable) academic record. Following are the minimum requirements for achieving satisfactory coursework performance:

- Doctoral students must have a minimum overall/cumulative GPA of **3.0** which is the equivalent of a **"B"** average.

The minimally acceptable grade a Doctoral student may receive in a course is a **B-**. Failure to receive an acceptable grade means that the course credit will not be applied toward requirements for the Ph.D. degree.

### (b) **Timely Advancement Towards Degree Completion:**

Another metric of satisfactory progress is for students to be at or near the time expected to advance to candidacy and degree completion based on the established Kinesiology Doctoral Program Timeline.

**(c) Satisfactory Teaching/Instruction:**

For students supported as Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs), satisfactory progress also includes satisfying additional teaching preparation (e.g., successful completion of required English language exam for students whose native language is not English and providing evidence of satisfactory teaching) and satisfactory teaching performance.

**(d) Professional Level of Decorum and Behavior**

Graduate student matters of decorum and behavior may be brought to the Office of Graduate Affairs for review. The Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs is charged with evaluating the concern and gathering the relevant information. A communication may be issued to the student outlining the complaint, along with a path toward resolution. Depending on the severity however, the complaint and relevant information may be brought to the Graduate Committee or other campus units for review and consideration, which may result in disciplinary action or discontinuation from the program.

**Deficiencies in Academic Progress:**

Kinesiology Doctoral students should periodically meet with their faculty advisers to discuss their academic progress. Kinesiology Doctoral students and their faculty advisors will be required to submit an annual evaluation of the Doctoral student's performance. The Graduate Committee will review the evaluations and provide a summary assessment of their progress, noting any academic deficiencies in coursework performance and advancement towards degree. The Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs will immediately notify students and their faculty advisor in writing when the student's academic performance falls below an acceptable level. Consequent to the deficiencies noted, the Graduate Committee, in consultation with the student's faculty advisor, may recommend to Rackham that the student be placed on academic probation or another action deemed appropriate by the committee.

In response to a Doctoral student's academic deficiencies, Rackham may take any of the following actions:

- place a note of "unsatisfactory academic standing" on the student's academic record.
- place a continuing student on academic probation.
- require a student to withdraw from the University.
- not confer a degree or certificate.

## **Unsatisfactory Academic Standing**

The School of Kinesiology applies Rackham's policies of Academic Standing (Rackham's guidelines on Academic Standing can be found here: <https://rackham.umich.edu/academic-policies/section3/H>) to all graduate students. Rackham will place a notation of "unsatisfactory academic standing" on the student's academic record at the end of the term in which a student's cumulative GPA falls below a B (3.0 on a 4.0 point scale); when a student fails to make timely advancements towards degree completion; or if the student does not demonstrate an ability to succeed within the program. A student with unsatisfactory academic standing may not advance to candidacy and will not be awarded a degree or graduate certificate, and may change programs and transfer credits only with permission of the admitting

program. A student with “unsatisfactory academic standing” is ineligible to receive a Graduate Student Instructor (GSI) Assistantship. Students who fail to make satisfactory progress will also be in jeopardy of having Kinesiology funding withdrawn.

### **Academic Probation and Dismissal for Academic Reasons**

The Graduate Committee will normally place a Kinesiology Doctoral student on academic probation prior to recommending that the student be dismissed for academic reasons. The exception to this rule is the advance notice of the policy given to students that a failure to pass the Qualifying Exam after a second attempt or any egregious action, as determined by the Graduate Committee, can result in the student’s dismissal without probation.

***Placing a student on academic probation.*** Each student’s records are periodically reviewed to ensure they are maintaining satisfactory academic status. Should a student have unsatisfactory academic status, the Graduate Committee will review all of the relevant information and may decide to place the student on academic probation.

***Length of the probationary period.*** The length of the probationary period in Kinesiology will be for at least two months, but will most likely be one semester. For a student placed on probation within two months of the end of the fall term, the probationary period will extend into the winter term for a total of at least two months. For a student placed on probation within two months of the end of the winter term, the probationary period may include the spring or summer half-terms or the following fall term, for a total of at least two months. A student may be placed on probation starting in the spring or summer half term for a minimum of two months, and does not need to be enrolled during these half terms. A student who has been placed on probation may request a leave of absence from Rackham or withdraw. The leave or withdrawal will stop the clock on the probationary period, which resumes when the student returns to active status or is reinstated. Probation will remain in effect until the conditions are remedied or the student is dismissed.

***Notification of academic probation.*** The Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs will notify the student and Rackham Graduate School of the probation. This notice will explain: (a) the reasons for the probation, (b) the period of probation (the start and end dates), (c) the status of funding support, (d) conditions, if any, for returning to satisfactory standing, and (e) options for the student to appeal.

***Funding during probation.*** A student on probation will continue to be funded at the same level as before the probationary period. If a student were receiving funding prior to being put on probation, funding will be continued through the probationary period.

***End of the probationary period and dismissal.*** At the end of the probation, in consultation with the faculty advisor and Rackham, the Graduate Committee may either return the student’s status to good academic standing, extend the probationary period, or recommend that the student be dismissed from the program. The Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs will notify Rackham of a recommendation for dismissal.

***Option to appeal academic probation or dismissal.*** Students will be notified of options to appeal academic probation or dismissal. The Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs will convene a committee to consider appeals. Students may use Rackham Graduate School’s Academic Dispute Resolution process only for procedural issues of fair and equal treatment under the policy of the program, and not to appeal the academic reasons for the decision. <https://rackham.umich.edu/policy/section9/>

## English Language Policy for Graduate Student Instructors (GSIs)

The School of Kinesiology requires that potential GSI's whose primary language is not English be evaluated for effective proficiency in classroom English. Effective proficiency includes:

1. Fluent and intelligible speech
2. The ability to understand the English spoken by students
3. The ability to produce organized and coherent explanations
4. The ability to contribute to the development of interactions with students

Graduate Students are exempt from the Graduate Student Instructor Oral English Test (GSI-OET) if they have received an undergraduate degree from a U.S. college or university, or an undergraduate degree from a college or university where English is the exclusive medium of instruction.

Graduate Student Instructors who are **not exempt** from the GSI-OET must pass it by May 1 of their first academic year in the program. The initial test will be given within one month of the student's arrival to UM. Kinesiology will cover the cost of the initial GSI-OET. Graduate Students who fail the test may retake the test at their own expense; however, students must pass the test by May 1 of their first academic year in order to maintain funding in the program.

Graduate Student Instructors who are **exempt** from the GSI-OET, will still need to show effective English proficiency. This will be determined by a School of Kinesiology e-interview (e.g., Zoom) or an in-person interview. If the student fails to show effective English proficiency, they will be required to pass the GSI-OET by May 1 of their first academic year in the program. The initial test will be given within one month of the student's arrival to UM. Kinesiology will cover the cost of the initial GSI-OET. Graduate Students who fail the test may retake the test at their own expense; however, students must pass the test by May 1 of their first academic year in order to maintain funding in the program.

## Continuous Enrollment

Graduate Students are expected to make every effort to maintain continuous enrollment in the Graduate Program. *Rackham Continuous Enrollment Policy* states that once admitted to a Ph.D. program, students will register every fall and winter term until their degree is awarded. Students will register during spring or summer terms only when they elect courses or defend their dissertation. The only exception to this enrollment pattern is when students elect to take an official Leave of Absence (see the information below).

## Leave of Absence

Rackham has designated four categories of Leave of Absences. The specific requirements of each can be found on their website at: <https://rackham.umich.edu/navigating-your-degree/leave-of-absence/>

- 1) Medical Leave
- 2) Family Necessity
- 3) Military Service
- 4) Personal Leave (up to one term during the duration of the program)

Requests for a Leave of Absence should be addressed to Rackham. Before submitting the form to Rackham, students are required to meet with the Kinesiology Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs. Graduate Program Faculty and Staff will have access to the basic information in the initial request, but not the supplemental information. The Associate Dean will submit a recommendation on the student's request for a Leave of Absence directly to Rackham. The deans within the Rackham Graduate School will approve or deny requests in accordance with the Leave of Absence Policy.

## **Discontinuing the Program**

There may be times when a student self-selects to leave the Graduate Program for a period of time for reasons not covered by the Leave of Absence. In this instance, students are encouraged to meet with the Kinesiology Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs to discuss Graduate Program withdrawal. When/if the student decides to return to the Program, they must apply for reinstatement. Reinstatement requests will be approved on a case by case basis, by the Kinesiology Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs. The student's prior progress to degree, Faculty Advisor agreement, and funding sources will all be considered. Rackham requires approval from the Kinesiology Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs to be reinstated, and a reinstatement fee must be paid for each fall and winter term the student was away. Information on [reinstatement and the associated fees](#) can be found on the Rackham website.

## **Final Ph.D. Degree Application**

The Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies has a set of specified procedures that govern the final application process to receive the Doctoral Degree.

## **Participation in Kinesiology Commencement**

Doctoral students must successfully defend their dissertations (oral defense) with a "Pass" or "Pass with Revision" by March 31 to participate in the Kinesiology Commencement Ceremony.

## **Faculty Responsibilities**

The maintenance and growth of a successful Doctoral Student relies in large part on cooperation and participation of adequately trained and prepared supervisory Faculty. Thus, having quality Faculty is essential to Doctoral student success. Mentoring Doctoral students represents a major responsibility, and the School of Kinesiology carefully considers the extent to which our Faculty are prepared -- in terms of an active research agenda, training, interest, and willingness to invest time -- for Doctoral

student mentoring. Nonetheless, although regular communication and interaction is encouraged between Faculty and Doctoral students, it is not a goal in the School of Kinesiology to standardize Doctoral student advising and mentoring. Our goal is to provide the best training possible by using the resources available at this university. As such, Graduate Faculty members are encouraged to make use of our unique strengths and scholarship areas to attract and train Doctoral Students, and provide them with a rewarding graduate education experience. The roles and responsibilities of Graduate Faculty relative to their support and mentoring of Doctoral Students include but are not limited to the following:

**Ph.D. Advisor:** To be a primary Ph.D. Advisor, a Faculty member must demonstrate recent and continuing interest and activity in the research process and be eligible to conduct research at the University of Michigan without any restrictions. This should include research publications in peer reviewed journals, book/book chapters, scholarly presentations at national and international conferences, grant activity, or compelling evidence of research scholarship deemed appropriate by the Graduate Committee and the Associate Dean of Research. Graduate Faculty may also participate in Graduate instruction via teaching formal classes or seminars and supervising independent study activities. Rackham Graduate School indicates that in order to serve as a chair for a Doctoral Student's committee, a person must be a member of the "governing body" of the university, which is further defined as an Assistant, Associate, or Full Professor, occupying a tenured or tenure-track position. Non-tenure track/clinical faculty, Instructors or Lecturers may co-chair a Doctoral Student's committee, if they have an earned doctorate, but may not chair a Dissertation. Research Scientists with an earned doctorate may co-chair a Dissertation Committee with approval from The Horace H. Rackham School of Graduate Studies and the Dean of the School of Kinesiology.

A continuing demonstration of research inquiry and scholarship is seen as necessary in order to cultivate a similarly thoughtful, rigorous approach to the discipline of Kinesiology (and related disciplines). Doctoral students and their Faculty Advisors should engage in a continuing demonstration of research inquiry and scholarship. The tools that enable a student to approach a discipline from a meticulous, logical, and scientific point of view probably comprise the most important legacy that a Faculty member can pass on to new generations of scholars. There are many areas (in the classroom, in the laboratory, in interactions with Faculty and student colleagues) where a Ph.D. Advisor's wisdom, judgment and assistance will be needed by the Doctoral student. By accepting a Doctoral student, a Faculty member accepts responsibility for appropriate training of this student. Should the Faculty Advisor's research training in a particular area be inadequate, the Faculty Advisor is obligated to ensure that students learn appropriate content knowledge, methodological processes and empirical skills. Therefore, Faculty Advisors are expected to commit adequate time and devotion to facilitate the success of their Doctoral students.

**SOK Conversation Plan:** Open dialogue between the faculty advisor and Doctoral student is a critical aspect of maintaining a healthy relationship. To facilitate conversation, Kinesiology Graduate Student/Faculty Advisor Conversation Plan should be completed by the student and reviewed, discussed, and signed by both parties within two months (March 1<sup>st</sup> Winter semester start or Nov 1<sup>st</sup> Fall semester start) of the start of the first semester. Discussion of some or all of the document in subsequent years is encouraged, but not required. The Conversation Plan can

be found here: <https://www.kines.umich.edu/sites/default/files/2022-07/SOK%20Conversation%20Plan.pdf>

**Mentoring Plans:** A critical aspect of graduate student success is the relationship between the Faculty Advisor and the Doctoral Student. Therefore, frequent and forthright communication will be paramount to Doctoral students' success. There is no set form/format for the Mentoring Plan, but to facilitate such success, Faculty Advisors will be required to develop a formal Mentoring Plan which could include but is not limited to meeting schedule, research goals and expectations, and target benchmark accomplishments for timely progress towards degree completion. Additionally, Faculty Advisors and Doctoral students are encouraged to attend at least one UM Sponsored Mentoring workshop to develop the mentoring plan. The Mentoring plan must be completed by the Faculty Advisor and student by the end of the first year of the student's enrollment in Doctoral study and should be reviewed/updated each year during the student's annual evaluation.

Rackham's Faculty Committee on Mentoring (MORE) offers regular mentoring sessions that are strongly encouraged for early career faculty. Information can be found here: <https://rackham.umich.edu/faculty-and-staff/resources-for-directors/mentoring/>

**Guidance Committee:** Quite often, incoming Doctoral students are unfamiliar with the School of Kinesiology Doctoral Program, given the breadth of Faculty interests and abilities, and the specific challenges of Doctoral Study. Helping Doctoral Students to choose interested, supportive, and exacting Faculty members to serve on their Guidance Committee is an important role of the Faculty Advisor. The Faculty who comprise the Guidance Committee should have some familiarity with the student's particular area of study and with the resources both inside the School of Kinesiology and around the University that will be useful to the student. It is important that the Faculty Advisor assume responsibility to convene this Committee early in the first year, or at least before the first 12 credits have been completed. It is also important that the Faculty Advisor ensure that the Committee is active in monitoring the student's progress during the first two years of Doctoral work. Ways to guarantee this involvement include participating in annual or bi-annual meetings, or encouraging one-on-one meetings between the student and Committee members. The Guidance Committee Form can be found here: <https://secure.rackham.umich.edu/OARD/dcs/index.php/DCSForm/coordAdd>

**Supervised Teaching:** Teaching is an important aspect of the Doctoral student experience. Good teaching represents an effective way to pass on knowledge to others and to stimulate discourse in one's area of scholarship. To the extent that many graduates of the Doctoral Program aspire to obtain university positions, teaching represents a requisite skill for employment. Faculty Advisors should be actively involved in helping to nurture and develop teaching skills in their Doctoral students. This may involve assisting the student in identifying an appropriate teaching area (and supervisory instructor, if necessary), helping the student construct lectures and lesson plans, evaluating student classroom teaching or ensuring that the student is aware of and takes advantage of instructional training available at the University (e.g., seminars and workshops at CRLT or sponsored by the Instructional Technology Division).

**Research Rotation Supervisor:** Although Faculty Advisors are not allowed to supervise their own Doctoral students in graded research rotations, they are responsible for supervising the development and contributions of Doctoral students' activities in their labs. Furthermore,

Faculty members are responsible for supervising graded research rotations of other students in their laboratories. It is important that Faculty Advisors clearly state their expectations for Doctoral students working in research labs (potentially through the Mentoring Plan), and deliver clear and honest feedback about lab performance on a regular basis and during the annual review. This feedback usually focuses on research-related performance (e.g., data collection, analysis skills, attention to subjects), but may also encompass interactional skills (e.g., ability to work with others in research settings).

**Qualifying Examination Committee:** As with the Guidance Committee, Faculty Advisors must take an active role in helping their students to choose appropriate Qualifying Examination Committee members. The Faculty who comprise the Qualifying Examination Committee should have: (a) appropriate knowledge/familiarity and expertise in the field or fields of study relevant to the student's particular degree program/area(s) of study, and (b) the ability to attest to the student's readiness to advance to candidacy. Faculty Advisors must assist the Committee members in structuring the expectations for student performance and by ensuring adequate contact between Committee members and their students. Further, Faculty Advisors should help students by ensuring that they are aware of these expectations. As students prepare for their Qualifying Examinations, Faculty Advisors should help guarantee that the content (e.g., reading lists prepared by the student) represents neither too narrow nor too broad of a focus.

**Dissertation Advisor:** Planning and conducting a Doctoral Dissertation is a multi-step process. It involves identifying research question(s), evaluating their relevance and significance, deciding on appropriate variables and measures, designing a suitable research approach, formulating hypotheses to be empirically tested, clearly presenting the rationale and the proposal to a Dissertation Committee, collecting data, analyzing the results, and interpreting one's findings. Dissertation Advisor plays a critical role as the supervisor of the Doctoral Dissertation process. Successful completion of a Dissertation requires successful, independent completion of each of the preliminary steps by the student. The Dissertation Advisor must be available to participate at each step of this process, and further, must be an active contributor to the process. Although the ultimate responsibility for the research product rests with students, Dissertation Advisors must be somewhat generous with both their time and advice as the research unfolds.

## **Change of Advisor for Doctoral Students**

Effective advising is an essential element for doctoral student success. Nevertheless, on occasion there may be a shift in intellectual interests or research methods, a change in needs or expectations, an advisor's departure from the university, or an unresolved academic or professional issue that impacts the advising relationship. Changing advisors should only be considered when all other forms of resolution have been exhausted. Notwithstanding, the need to change advisors does arise, and although it is infrequent, should follow the process outlined below to make this change as smoothly and expeditiously as possible. The process should be held in confidence by all parties involved.

### ***1) Initiating the Change of Advisor***

The Office of Graduate Affairs will consider a change in doctoral advisors when a "Change Advisor Request Form" has been submitted via email to the Associate Dean for Graduate Affairs and/or the Graduate Student Affairs Director notifying of the request to change. For all cases not involving a

harassing, abusive, or similarly unsafe environment, both parties should provide a demonstrable, good faith effort in resolving any issues that have led to the request, including consulting with the Office of Graduate Affairs and/or Rackham's Graduate Student and Program Consultation Services to discuss means to resolution and possible outcomes.

The student and/or advisor may be asked to provide information in writing or in person to the Graduate Committee, along with supporting documentation, and the planned process by which to make the change. The Graduate Committee will review all materials and may request additional information before either approving or denying the request with feedback. Students must be in Good Academic Standing ([Rackham Graduate School Academic Policies, 3.4](#)) and not on Academic Probation ([Rackham Graduate School Academic Policies, 3.5.2](#)) for a request to be considered. The request to change cannot overlap with the qualifying exams or dissertation approval or defense and will typically be effective at the beginning of the semester following approval.

### ***2) Description of the Change of Advisor Process***

In most cases, to change doctoral advisors, the student must identify and confirm support of a new primary advisor within or outside of the School of Kinesiology. The new advisor must be a tenure track faculty member who can provide financial support (e.g., tuition and stipend) for the remainder of student's initial funding requirement. There is no guarantee that a new advisor will be available, and the student bears the responsibility of identifying a new advisor. Failure to find a new advisor may mean dismissal from the program.

Once support from the new advisor is confirmed, the student must Complete the "Change of Advisor" form and return it to the Office of Graduate Affairs via email, including the original advisor and the new advisor. The form should confirm the change and include a brief statement explaining why the change is beneficial.

### ***3) Graduate Student Funding during the Process***

Once the Graduate Committee approves the request to change advisors (see above) and while the change is being undertaken, the student will continue to be financially supported for one term. The one term of funding will be based on the date of the Graduate Committee approval and will most commonly be through the mechanism identified at the beginning of the semester. The new advisor will be responsible for the student's support at the beginning of the semester they take over as advisor; however, supplemental/continued SOK funding will be considered on a case-by-case basis based on the recommendation of the Graduate Committee and subject to approval by the Associate Dean of Graduate Affairs and Dean of Kinesiology.

In the event the doctoral student is leaving a harassing, abusive, or similarly unsafe trainee-advisor relationship or when the initial advisor has departed the School or University, the School of Kinesiology will cover, at a minimum, the one term of transitional funding regardless of the initial funding source. Transitional funding is intended to support the trainees' continued progress to degree. The transitional funding can be used to support the trainees' search for a new advisor or to support work with a new advisor that does not currently have funding.

### ***4) Graduate Student Support during the Process***

Changing advisors can be stressful and can cause student anxiety, which can also affect academic progress. Situations between students and faculty that involve unresolved conflict may benefit from

support from program leadership. Rackham's [Graduate Student and Program Consultation Services \(GSPCS\)](#) team is also available to support programs, faculty, and students. Any questions surrounding research productivity and credit for research and other outputs should be taken to the Rackham Graduate Student and Program Consultation Services. Rackham has an embedded [Counseling and Psychological Services \(CAPS\)](#) counselor available to support student mental health and wellbeing as they navigate this process. Students may also have concerns such as retaliation and the status of their visas. Kinesiology does not tolerate retaliation and upholds that visa status is not affected by change of advisor (c.f. [U-M International Center](#) for definitive information).

## Summary of Committees

The Guidance Committee should be formed during students' first semester in the Doctoral Program. The Guidance Committee usually evolves into the Qualifying Examination Committee. This group may ultimately become the Dissertation Committee, although its makeup may change after the Guidance Committee completes its task. Members of the original Guidance Committee may serve on all three committees, or substitutions may be made, as deemed appropriate by the student and Faculty Advisor. (No changes in the makeup of the Qualifying Exam Committee may be made once the examination process has begun.) The makeup of the committees is as follows:

### Guidance Committee

Minimum 3 members  
 Minimum 2 from Kinesiology  
 Minimum 1 cognate (outside Kinesiology but at UM)

### Qualifying Exam Committee

Minimum 3 members  
 Minimum 2 from Kinesiology  
 Minimum 1 cognate (outside Kinesiology but at UM)  
 One faculty designee as the Ensurer of Equity and Fairness (EFE)

### Dissertation Committee

Minimum 4 members  
 Minimum 3 members from UM  
 Minimum 2 from Kinesiology  
 Minimum 1 cognate (outside Kinesiology but at UM)

## List of Forms to be Completed/Signed in Student's File Before Graduation

Admission Letter  
 SOK Conversation Plan  
 Guidance Committee and Plan  
 Mentoring Plan  
 Annual Evaluations  
 Research Rotation Contract  
 Qualifying Exam Forms (Written portion of exam attached)

Dissertation Committee Worksheet  
 Dissertation Proposal Approval (Written portion of the proposal attached)

## Timing of Key Events

The following outlines key events that take place throughout the course of PhD study. This is not a fixed timeline as every student's program of study should be tailored to their needs. Students are responsible for completing each step appropriately and on time. Students are encouraged to work with their faculty advisor and the Office of Graduate Affairs throughout the process.



## **Policy for Doctoral Students Who Do Not Complete the Doctoral Degree**

Doctoral students who accumulate at least 30 credits may be awarded a Master's Degree if they choose not to continue Doctoral Studies and meet the following stipulations:

1. The Graduate Committee must agree that the course of study merits a Master's-level Degree.
2. Students cannot already hold a Master of Science (M.S.) or Master of Arts (M.A.) in Kinesiology, Movement Science, Sport Management, or similar fields.
3. Students must have met all requirements for the Master's Degree, including at least one graduate-level statistics course as well as at least four credits of coursework taken outside Kinesiology.

## **Graduate Program Policies and Procedures**

### **Types of Admission**

#### **Not a Candidate for Degree**

Not a Candidate for Degree (NCFD) admission status may be granted to qualified students who do not wish to pursue a degree but do wish to elect courses for graduate credit. NCFD applicants must submit the standard application form to the Rackham Graduate School. Subsequent consideration for admission to a graduate degree program is contingent upon full review of credentials in competition with other degree applicants. If an NCFD student achieves regular admission to a Rackham degree program, some courses taken prior to his or her admission may be counted toward a graduate degree. If an NCFD student eventually wishes to complete a Rackham degree program, registration as an NCFD student for more than one term is not advisable since inappropriate coursework will not count toward a graduate degree.

#### **Guest Status**

Guest status is also available through the Rackham Graduate School for one spring half or summer half term. The procedure for being admitted under the Guest status requires proof of a Bachelor's Degree; it does not require the usual application fee. This process is handled at the Rackham Graduate School Admissions Office.

#### **Visiting Graduate Students**

The School of Kinesiology welcomes graduate students from other universities as Visiting Graduate Students. This status is only for graduate students who are invited to pursue a program of research during a limited term of residence. These visitors may have access to some services and resources. Students visiting under student exchange agreements are not eligible for Visiting Graduate Student status. Current students, staff, and faculty of the University of Michigan are also not eligible for this status.

Visiting Graduate Students are individuals who:

- Are conducting research related to the graduate degree requirements of another university as their primary purpose; and
- Are invited by a department, program or other University academic unit; and
- Will be in residence for not less than one month and not more than two calendar years (may be requested in 1 year or less increments).

Additional information can be found at: <https://hr.umich.edu/working-u-m/my-employment/academic-human-resources/visiting-scholars-visiting-graduate-students>

## **Probationary Admission**

Applicants to the Master's Program who are slightly deficient with respect to Kinesiology's academic standards may be admitted on probation. Probationary admittance requires the maintenance of a 3.0 (B) average during the first eight credit hours of graduate work at the University of Michigan.

## **Deferred Admission (Masters and Doctoral Program)**

The Graduate Committee may grant Deferred Admission status to the Masters and Doctoral programs for the year following the one originally requested by the applicant. These decisions are at the discretion of the Graduate Committee, are made under carefully presented conditions, and are few in number. No additional forms or fees are required.

## **Notification of Admission**

Applicants for graduate programs can check the [status of their application](#) online. The Web Application Status page allows you to: 1) verify application data; 2) view the status of your application; 3) accept or decline an offer of admission; and 4) find the answers to frequently asked questions like "How will I know if I have been offered admission?"

Admission is granted for a specific term and year. If the student does not enroll that term, admission is cancelled, and the application and supporting materials are placed in inactive status (unless deferred admission is approved by the Graduate Committee). Upon written request, an application may be reconsidered for the following two full terms. After one full year a new application and fee must be submitted.

## **Readmission**

Students who seek to re-enroll in a Kinesiology program, after not registering in the program for 12 months, may reapply through the Rackham Admissions Office. Acceptance depends upon program approval and upon availability of space and facilities for the term in which readmission is desired.

## Registration

Registration is conducted via the internet on [Wolverine Access](#) and must take place on or after students' appointment times as assigned by the registrar. This is also where students will find registration information. Click on Student Business and enter your Login ID (username) or Friend ID and password.

Undergraduate level courses may not be counted toward the Graduate Degree. However, if Rackham approves a 400-level course in any Department on campus for graduate credit, it may be elected for credit toward the Master's degree. Courses numbered in the 400s that are required in order to meet the Graduate Program prerequisites may not count toward the Master's Degree; however, be aware that such 400 level courses do count in the Graduate student's overall G.P.A.

Students must consult their Faculty Advisors for approval of course elections. NCFD students are not assigned an advisor but must have course elections approved by the Graduate Committee Chair.

## Student Return to Campus

Students may decide to engage in various activities in-between semesters and/or during the summer, including immersive experiences, internships, employment, vacations, or similar activities. While the program supports these activities, students should schedule them to avoid delaying their return to campus in the subsequent semester. Consistent with other campus units, students who do not report to the first two classes of the semester may be dropped from the course at the instructor's discretion. Being dropped from a class or classes could affect time to graduation and should be considered by the student when planning these activities. Any student who plans to delay their return to campus and wishes to remain in their classes should inform the instructor(s) of record to discuss their situation and available options, if any.

## Registration for Independent Experience Courses

All students pursuing graduate work who use University of Michigan facilities such as offices, libraries, laboratories, or computers, or who consult their advisors concerning their thesis or dissertations, must be registered. Registration could be for required courses, for cognate courses in students' particular interest areas, or for a number of independent experience courses. Independent experience courses include KINESLGY 682 (Independent Readings), KINESLGY 684 (Independent Study), KINESLGY 686 (Internship), KINESLGY 619 (Master's Thesis), KINESLGY 990 (Dissertation research for pre-candidates), and KINESLGY 995 (Dissertation research for candidates). Prior to registration, students and the Faculty supervising the independent study courses will agree on the amount and type of work that needs to be completed. This agreement is documented by completing the [Independent Study Form](#). Once the completed form has been submitted to the Graduate Program Coordinator, an electronic class

permission (override) will be issued. Students then register for the courses using the instructor's designated section number.

## Tuition

The fees and charges of the University are determined by the Board of Regents and are subject to change without notice by the Regents. The most up to date information regarding the tuition and fees can be found through the Office of the Registrar: <https://ro.umich.edu/tuition-residency/tuition-fees>

## Office of Financial Aid

The Office of Financial Aid administers Loans and Work-Study programs at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor campus. Graduate Students may apply through this office for a Federal Direct Stafford Loan (FDSL), Perkins Loan, and Work-Study employment. Awards for FDSL, Perkins, and Work-Study programs are made on the basis of demonstrated financial need. Students must enroll at least half time to receive FDSL funds and full time to receive a Perkins Loan and Work-Study. However, since determination of full-time and part-time status differs among graduate and undergraduate programs, students should verify their eligibility status with the Office of Financial Aid. The procedures for applying for financial aid are outlined in the Rackham Admissions Brochure or by contacting the Office of Financial Aid (<http://www.finaid.umich.edu/>).

## Emergency Funds

Students who need emergency funds should apply to the Rackham Graduate Student Emergency Fund. The Rackham Graduate Student Emergency Fund is intended to help meet the financial needs of Rackham graduate students who encounter an emergency situation or one-time, unusual, or unforeseen expenses during their degree program. Situations eligible for funding include such events as:

- Medical, dental or mental health emergencies for the student or, in some circumstances, for immediate family members\* who live with the student
- Major accidents and events such as fire and natural disasters
- Expenses related to the death of an immediate family member\*

Normal living expenses such as rent, car repairs, childcare, utilities, taxes, insurance, pet-related expenses, and computer/laptop replacement are generally not covered by this fund.

\* The immediate family consists of an student's spouse or [other qualified adult](#); the son, daughter, parent, grandparent, grandchild, brother, sister (or the spouse of any of them), of either the student, the student's spouse, the other qualified adult or any other related person living in the student's household.

To apply for this for fund or to obtain additional information visit this link (on the Rackham website): <https://rackham.umich.edu/funding/funding-types/rackham-graduate-student-emergency-funds/>.

## Discipline

The following categories of academic dishonesty: cheating, plagiarism, unethical data manipulation, sending, receiving, and/or using course information (exams, assignments, etc.) without the instructor's knowledge or permission, knowingly furnishing false information to the University, or forging, altering, or misusing University documents or academic credentials are subject to academic discipline.

Nonacademic misconduct subject to discipline includes harassment, verbal/emotional/physical abuse, unprofessional conduct and misuse of University property. Violations of conduct may result in dismissal from the Graduate Program. Consult with Kinesiology's Office of Graduate Student Affairs Director regarding issues of academic discipline.

[Rackham Graduate School Academic Integrity Policies](#) has more information on academic misconduct.

## Academic Dispute Resolution

[Rackham's Academic Dispute Resolution Policy and Procedures](#) are available to Rackham students who have a dispute or disagreement with Faculty or Staff about the equity and fairness of decisions or procedures that affect their academic standing and progress toward degree. Such issues may arise regarding fair and equal treatment in the conduct of a class and in the grading or evaluation of academic work or research. To begin the resolution dispute process, students should contact the Director of Graduate Student Affairs to obtain the name of the Resolution Dispute Board.

## Grade Grievance Procedure

A grade given by a faculty member can only be changed by that faculty member. Kinesiology grievance procedures are intended to issue a recommendation, for or against a change, to the appropriate faculty member. The final decision rests with the faculty member. While the School wishes to see demonstrably unfair grades rectified, it will not automatically invoke the grievance procedure. Differences between the grade received and the grade expected that are less than a full letter grade will not be considered, unless it is between a B- and a C. A student must first attempt to resolve a grade grievance with the instructor of the course. If the grievance cannot be resolved with the faculty member, the student should email the Associate Dean of Graduate Affairs and submit to them a letter detailing the nature of the complaint and details regarding communication with the faculty about the grade grievance. The student should also submit all papers, examinations, and any other supporting material to which they have access. In addition, the course syllabus and grading rubric should also be presented to the Associate Dean. The Associate Dean, in conjunction with the Graduate Committee, will make a recommendation to the faculty member. The faculty member will notify the Associate Dean and the faculty member of their decision within two weeks.

## Generative AI

The use of generative AI for the qualifying exam and/or dissertation is made at the discretion of the faculty mentor and committee. Any use of AI must be compliant with Rackham's policy on Academic and Professional Integrity (<https://rackham.umich.edu/academic-policies/section8/>) and any broader University of Michigan policies. Should the mentor and committee allow for AI to be used, specific guidance of how the tool(s) may be used will be provided to the student. Regardless of any specific guidance, any student using AI must provide the following information: the prompt used to generate the text and the raw text provided by the AI system(s). Any AI generated text included in the final document must adhere to typical standards for properly citing original sources of information.

## Academic Appeals

The appeals procedures of the Rackham Graduate School provide informal and formal address of grievances for Rackham students. The student and the subject of the grievance must meet certain eligibility criteria. For details concerning the criteria and the appeal process, check [Rackham's Academic Grievance Procedures](#) and click on Rackham Graduate School Academic Policies.

## Transfer Credit

The School of Kinesiology follows [Rackham's policy and procedures for transfer credit](#).

## Grading Policies

Graduate Students are graded by the letter grade system (A, B, C, D, E), except for specially designated courses. Grades of + and - may be given whenever such evaluation is possible. Grade point average (G.P.A.) is computed by translating letter grades into honor points for each hour of credit in a course. The minimally acceptable grade in all coursework is a B- and failure to receive an acceptable grade means that course credit will not be applied toward requirements for the associated degree.

The total number of honor points divided by the total number of credit hours of the courses is the student's G.P.A. An average of B, or 3.0, is required to remain in good standing. Students whose G.P.A. falls below a "B" in a given term, are placed on probation the following term or denied permission to register. Students whose G.P.A. falls below a B for two successive terms may, with permission of their program chairperson, be granted a final term during which the G.P.A. must be brought up to a B. Students whose G.P.A. falls below a B for three successive terms are required to withdraw from the University. For further information, see the [Rackham Graduate School Academic Policies](#).

## Harassment

The School of Kinesiology is committed to fostering a safe and respectful environment. If you or someone you know has experienced or believes they are subject to any form of harassment, you're strongly encouraged to report the incident(s). You can reach out to several dedicated offices on campus, including the Equity, Civil Rights and Title IX Office (ECRT), the Dean of Students Office, or the Division of Public Safety and Security (DPSS). Reporting helps ensure appropriate action and support.

Dean of Students

Main page: <https://deanofstudents.umich.edu/>

Sexual misconduct: <https://deanofstudents.umich.edu/article/sexual-misconduct-prevention-and-response>

Critical incidents: <https://deanofstudents.umich.edu/critical-incident>

Equity, Civil Rights, and Title IX (ECRT): <https://ecrt.umich.edu/>