

Graduate Program in French

Policy on Probation and Dismissal

All students in the French Ph.D. program must satisfy the academic performance requirements of the Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, published in the *Graduate School Bulletin's* "General Requirements" section. Procedures followed in the French Ph.D. program will also comply with the Graduate School of Arts & Sciences "Policy on Probation and Dismissal for Academic Reasons," obtainable at <http://graduateschool.wustl.edu/policy-probation-and-dismissal-academic-reasons>.

The French faculty follow a formal procedure for confidential and continuous evaluation of graduate students, embodied in paper forms or other written commentary that faculty who teach graduate seminars file with the Director of Graduate Studies at the end of every semester. On these forms, faculty comment on the quality of students' work, and especially on whether the work leads to any reservations about their capacity to do graduate work. In cases where the DGS finds serious concerns in these evaluations about a student's ability to complete the program, the DGS consults with faculty about a plan for the student's improvement, and then writes a letter to the student to convey the substance of the evaluations, and to outline the steps that faculty expect him or her to take to remedy the problem in a probationary period, generally the following semester. At the end of that time, in cases of insufficient improvement, the DGS, in consultation with the faculty, may recommend a student for dismissal for poor academic performance.

While faculty admit all graduate students expecting that they will complete the Ph.D., the French program uses the AM exam in the second semester of students' second year as a moment of evaluation for continuation in the program. Students who fail the exam may take it again once, at the end of that semester. Students retaking the exam will be placed on academic probation in the interim. In all cases, faculty consult after the AM exam about whether to allow the student to continue. Students not allowed to continue, but who have met the minimum standard for passing the AM exam, leave with that degree.

Students usually take their Ph.D. exam in the second semester of their third year, and no later than the second semester of their fourth year. Students who fail the Ph.D. exam may take it again once, usually at the end of the semester in question, and will be placed on academic probation in the interim. Failure to pass the Ph.D. exam a second time results in a recommendation for dismissal from the program.

The French program places a high value on the quality of students' teaching, and evaluates this regularly. Students generally receive written teaching evaluations in each semester they teach by at least one faculty member. The program communicates these evaluations to the students, the course head of the class taught, and the Directors of Graduate and Undergraduate Studies. The Directors conveys serious concerns to the student involved, and suggests steps that faculty expect him or her to take to remedy the problem in a specified time. The program may recommend a student for dismissal for poor performance in teaching.

The program tries to maintains a professional and collegial atmosphere. Students who do not behave in ways consistent with this goal may receive verbal and written warnings, and the DGS and faculty may recommend dismissal of students who do not change their behavior. The DGS will refer to the Dean of the Graduate School patterns of disruptive behavior, as well as offenses against the provisions of the *Graduate School Bulletin* or other University policies and rules of conduct. Serious offenses may result in immediate dismissal.