



# School of Graduate Studies

---

University of Toronto

DEAN OF GRADUATE STUDIES AND  
VICE-PROVOST GRADUATE EDUCATION

TO: Committee on Academic Policy and Programs

SPONSOR: Susan Pfeiffer  
CONTACT INFO: susan.pfeiffer@utoronto.ca

DATE: January 12, 2006

AGENDA ITEM: 3

**ITEM IDENTIFICATION:**

**School of Graduate Studies: Ph.D. Candidacy**

**JURISDICTIONAL INFORMATION:**

The Committee reviews changes to academic regulations. This regulation has been approved, and the new change concerns only nomenclature to describe progress through the Ph.D. program and to record that progress on students' academic records. Therefore, this item is for information only.

**PREVIOUS ACTION TAKEN:**

**HIGHLIGHTS:**

In April, 2002, the Committee on Academic Policy and Programs approved a proposal from the School of Graduate Studies regarding Good Standing and Satisfactory Academic Progress.

<http://www.utoronto.ca/govcncl/bac/details/ap/2001-02/apr20020417.pdf>

Procedures are now in place through which each Ph.D. program indicates a student's achievement of good standing in response to the end-of-term query from SGS regarding doctoral students who have reached the end of their third year of registration (or fourth year in the case of direct-entry PhD students). At this point in registration, good standing is defined as the completion of all Ph.D. requirements, except the thesis.

At its meeting on 22 November, 2005, SGS Council added to this process a feature of nomenclature, namely that the Ph.D. student who reaches this level of achievement will be identified as a doctoral candidate. SGS will ensure that the student's transcript is annotated to indicate that candidacy has been achieved.

Discussions among many groups have emphasized the need to identify clear milestones marking the achievements of students pursuing the Ph.D. program. Clearly defined, collectively valued achievements provide a kind of support to graduate students who are undertaking prolonged, highly individualized programs. Our current Calendar uses the words "student" and "candidate" interchangeably, with no indication of what the latter term implies. Most peer institutions define candidacy, in much the same way as described above. The University of Toronto School of Graduate Studies Calendar for 2006-2007, Degree Regulations section, under Ph.D. Program Requirements, will state: "Completion of the program requirements identified above will signal the achievement of candidacy." The specific criteria that must be fulfilled within a doctoral program will be the same criteria that must be achieved for a student to be in good standing at the end of the third/fourth year of registration.

**FINANCIAL AND/OR PLANNING IMPLICATIONS:**

There will be no additional resources or physical facilities required for this item.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

For Information