

SIO Advancement to Candidacy and Ethics Requirement

Until recently, the SIO Department policy encouraging students to take their qualifying exam and advance to candidacy by the end of the third year has been regarded as a guideline rather than a requirement. There are many reasons for early advancement, including: an increase in salary, an improvement of mentoring for the student, and a decrease in cost to the department. Therefore, as of now, advancement to candidacy by the end of the third year will be considered a requirement for a student to be in good standing and necessary to receive departmental support.

Students receive a raise of \$1000 per year after advancing to candidacy. This alone should provide some motivation for complying with Departmental policy. Also qualifying earlier helps you do better research. The purpose of the qualifying exam is to outline the road map for what you will do for your dissertation and establish 1) that it is worth doing, 2) that you can do it within normative time (6 years) and 3) that you have the tools necessary to complete the work. If you are to receive meaningful guidance from your doctoral committee regarding your dissertation research, it is important to qualify by the end of the third year.

In addition to the benefits of advancing to candidacy before the end of the third year, there are consequences for delay. The university standards for 'good academic standing' are posted here: <http://ogs.ucsd.edu/academic-affairs/academic-progress-policies/good-academic.html>. Our standards are stricter in that we now require, not just encourage, qualifying by the end of the third year. Henceforth, good academic standing will be required to receive SIO Department funding including:

- Receiving SIO Department fellowship or scholarship support
- Receiving SIO Department travel and research support
- Holding SIO Department academic appointments, such as TA-ships.

Please be aware that before you can qualify, you must complete one of the approved UCSD Responsible Conduct of Research courses before taking your Qualifying Exam. SIO offers two such courses: SIO 273A in the Winter quarter and SIO 232 in the Spring. To earn course credit, you may register using Webreg on Tritonlink. Otherwise, you can request a certificate of completion for verification.

If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to email them to me or set up a time to meet. I can be reached at ltauxe@ucsd.edu, 858-822-1800.

Sincerely,
Dr. Lisa Tauxe
SIO Department Chair