

## Graduate Student Benchmarks

The following student benchmarks are intended to provided students and their faculty advisors with some guidelines for gauging a student's progress toward obtaining his or her degree. The benchmarks are also meant to be included in the evaluation of a graduate student's overall performance in the program. Summer semesters are not considered in marking progress.

### For students entering with a Bachelor's degree

- |                                    |                                       |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| • First year research presentation | By end of<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> semester |
| • Master's thesis proposal         | 4 <sup>th</sup> semester              |
| • Master's defense                 | 6 <sup>th</sup> semester              |
| • Preliminary examination          | 7 <sup>th</sup> semester              |
| • Dissertation proposal            | 8 <sup>th</sup> semester              |

### For students entering with a Master's degree

- |                                    |                          |
|------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| • First year research presentation | 3 <sup>rd</sup> semester |
| • Preliminary examination          | 5 <sup>th</sup> semester |
| • Dissertation proposal            | 6 <sup>th</sup> semester |

If a student fails to achieve a particular benchmark within two semesters of the stipulated period, he/she will receive a letter expressing concern about his/her progress in the program. If a particular benchmark has not been met within three semesters of the stipulated period, the student's departmental financial support will be at risk.

These benchmarks may be delayed for students who undertake internships, ARI fellowships, or a leave of absence. The merit of these and other exceptions to the benchmarks will be evaluated, where appropriate, by the student's faculty advisor and Supervisory Committee.