

Student Expectations for 798 and 898

Faculty and students are encouraged to use these guidelines regarding expectations for students enrolled in thesis or dissertation credits when evaluating performance and assigning grades for research credits.

Departments are encouraged to include these guidelines in their graduate handbooks.

Approved by the Council on Graduate Education on 4/5/2024

Criterion	Merits an NP or S
Accomplishment	Achieves significant, concrete progress in research or writing, such as lit review, research proposal, experiment setup or progress, data collection, drafting thesis, reports, or papers, etc.
Effort	Consistently works regular hours each week to meet expectations for credits taken (1 cr = at least 3 hrs/wk)
Quality	Research activities reflect competence and value, building toward a successful thesis or dissertation.
Communication	Meets regularly with advisor to discuss progress, review work, and set goals. Promptly seeks guidance in case of issues or setbacks.
Professional development	Regularly participates in department seminars; pursues formal and informal professional development activities such as workshops, conferences, webinars, etc.
Professional conduct	Works ethically, gives credit to others when appropriate, communicates respectfully with faculty and peers, is responsible and reliable colleague, cultivates positive attitude toward work and others, alerts team of absences or issues interfering with work.

To merit an NP or S grade for research credits, students should meet the stated expectations in Accomplishment and Effort, and in at least two other criteria.

Students should not receive a semester U grade without being notified at least once during the semester that they are not making satisfactory progress and given sufficient time to remedy performance.

Major Professor Expectations

Faculty members who agree to be a major professor for a student should be aware of their responsibilities, and graduate students should know what they can expect from their advisor.

Departments are encouraged to include these guidelines in graduate and faculty handbooks.

Criterion	Meets Expectations
Availability	Ensures regular meetings with student to discuss progress, review work, and set goals.
Communication	Cultivates open and respectful two-way communication. Provides clear and reasonable expectations. Notifies students of funding changes in advance of impacts to individuals or groups.
Feedback	Communicates performance issues promptly and respectfully; provides guidance for improvement. Gives prompt (within 2 weeks), helpful, and respectful feedback on research work and writing drafts.
Mentoring	Identifies and shares opportunities for professional development, models quality research methods, provides necessary guidance while still fostering growth in student autonomy and creativity. Cultivates ability to commend student strengths as well as identify areas for improvement.
Support	Fosters conditions for academic and research progress, provides lab and equipment needed for research, respects student personal and situational challenges when needed. Encourages timely completion of degree requirements.
Funding	Seeks to provide consistent and competitive funding for multiple years when possible. Manages grant budgets and submits timely EPAFs to avoid gaps or late payments. Does not expect students to complete compensatory duties while not on contract.
Professional conduct	Works ethically, gives credit to students when appropriate, cultivates a respectful, equitable, and professional working environment.