

EPID 992/994 Guidelines and Expectations

Registration for EPID 992 (Master's paper credits) or 994 (dissertation credits) commits you to investing appropriate time to your thesis substitute or dissertation progress for that semester.

If you are registering for these credits, expectations are:

1. That you set goals for the semester at or around the time of registration, and that we discuss those goals;
2. That you invest appropriate time over the course of the semester toward reaching those goals;
3. That you remain in regular communication with me about your progress toward your goals, and any evolution in your goals, during the semester.

Goals: Completion of a thesis or dissertation is often a non-linear and unpredictable process. What you actually accomplish in a semester may be very different from your original goals for any number of reasons, and your goals are likely to evolve, often substantially, over the course of a semester. This is normal and expected. I ask you to set goals not because you will be held accountable for them in the original timeframe, but because having goals helps us focus and make (and assess) progress.

Time: Your time is your own to manage. Many of us find it much easier to respond to the little things (emails; writing advisee guidelines...) and harder to carve out the dedicated, focused time that you need to make serious progress on whatever set of complex and frustrating problems you are currently encountering in your thesis. Make sure you "pay yourself first" and have scheduled time when you free yourself from interruptions and can focus on this.

Communication: Our regular advisee meetings will generally be the best forum for regular communication but other arrangements can also work. At least monthly substantive communication about your progress is generally a minimum expectation.

Grading guidelines: Meeting the expectations above will merit a P for your 992/994 credits. In unusual cases of substantially exceeding expected progress an H may be awarded. An L may be awarded if you do not meet the communication expectations or make clearly inadequate progress on your thesis given your circumstances. An F may be awarded for extreme lapses in communication or progress. "Placeholder" grades of Incomplete or Satisfactory Progress are no longer allowed for these credits.

Course: EPID 992 EPID 994 Semester: Fall Spring

Signatures:

Student: _____

Advisor: _____

Date: _____

This is a suggested guideline/expectation document; feel free adapt it to your needs. The completed document should reflect a conversation between the student and advisor.