

Advising Appointment Checklist for New Graduate Students

Department of Earth and Space Sciences

Date: _____ Student: _____ Primary Adviser: _____

Academic Planning – First Year

- Review required courses (see list below).
- Develop a written plan of courses for your first year. Plan courses 1) to insure depth and breadth (review your transcripts) and 2) to prepare you for the Prelim Exam.
- Discuss experiential learning requirement. Decide if field camp will be required in summer.
- Form a First-Year committee (2 other members in addition to your primary adviser) and tell Ken Creager and ESS Student Services who is on your committee by **October 31**.
- Set goals (see below).

Required Courses

- ESS 590 Teaching Seminar - required for all TAs
- ESS 50x ESS graduate core courses – In your first two years, you must take two (2) out of four (4) of these courses, which are designed to give you breadth of knowledge in Earth and Space Sciences.
- ESS 594 Intro to ESS Research – required autumn, winter and spring quarters
- ESS 599 ESS Seminar – required autumn, winter and spring quarters

Goals (preliminary)

- Complete Master's Degree* (if applicable) _____
- Set up Ph.D. Supervisory Committee _____
- Complete General Exam _____

*If you are planning to submit a Master's thesis, you should plan to register for at least nine (9) credits of ESS 700 rather than ESS 600 before you defend your thesis. (ESS 700 credits are not required for non-thesis MS degree.)

Academic Planning – Second Year

- Discuss Prelim Exam (qualifying exam) – required in September next year
- Plan your summer schedule following the first year so both you and your adviser are available for the four working days before autumn quarter
- Review handout "Program Requirements and Grad Student Assessment" in your folder.

Teaching

We encourage you to gain teaching experience as a graduate student. If you do not have a teaching assistantship (TA) during your first year, discuss your plans for teaching.

If you have a TA during the coming year, confirm that you have attended or plan to attend the...

- TA Conference on Teaching and Learning – Tue, Sept 21
- First Aid/CPR Training – Wed, Sept 22
- EH&S Trainings – Tue, Sept 28
- ESS 590A, Teaching Seminar (must be registered for this course)

If English is not your native language and you have a TA this year, confirm that you have...

- Met the English language proficiency requirement - You meet this requirement by achieving a spoken English proficiency test score of at least: 70 on the Versant English Test, or 26 on the speaking portion of the TOEFL iBT, or 7.0 on the speaking portion of the IELTS, or 55 on the TSE, or by passing ENGL 105 – an English course for international TAs.

Financial Support

- Discuss your financial support for this year and for your second year.
- Discuss when you should begin seeking and applying for grants or fellowships.
- Review handout "Understanding Washington State Residency" in your folder.
You should become a Washington State Resident. This reduces costs to the department and to you in quarters of non-support.