General Duties and Responsibilities for Geography

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1.0 GENERAL INFORMATION

About This Document

The purpose of this GDRS is to clarify information concerning Graduate Teaching Fellowships (GTFs) offered by this GTF hiring unit. The relationship between GTFs and the University as a whole is governed by the Collective Bargaining Agreement (CBA) between the University of Oregon and the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation. This GDRS details the specific relationship between GTFs and this GTF hiring unit.

This document does not apply to work-study, hourly student employees or other staff hired in this GTF hiring unit.

About GTF Tuition and Fees

Graduate Teaching Fellows are required to maintain and complete a minimum of 9 graduate credit hours. GTFs pay no tuition on the first 16 credit hours per term if their appointment is equal to or
greater than .20 FTE and they complete the assignment at .20 FTE or greater. Graduate Teaching Fellows must pay $61 of the mandatory fees set by the Oregon University System; fees are subject to change without additional notice. Details of GTF and University contributions to these fees are contained in the current Collective Bargaining Agreement, Article 22.

About the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation (GTFF)

All Graduate Teaching Fellows (including administrative, research and teaching GTFs) at the University of Oregon are represented by a union, the GTFF. Official membership is at the individual’s discretion although payment of monthly dues or an equivalent is required under a fair share agreement. Levels of appointment and minimum salary levels for all graduate teaching appointments are subject to the provisions of the CBA between the GTFF and the University of Oregon. A link to the CBA and to this GDRS is provided in the GTF appointment contract signed by each student who accepts a GTF appointment.

The individual who shall oversee the implementation of this GDRS is: Amy Lobben

DATE OF THIS GDRS REVISION: 7/31/2014  ACADMIC YEAR 2014-15

2.0 AVAILABILITY OF GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

The availability of GTF appointments are programmatically determined by department faculty in the case of academic units and by unit leaders in the case of non-academic units. The number of GTF positions available is subject to the budgetary constraints on the GTF employing unit and the University, and is based on the unit’s specific need for one or more GTFs.

In this GTF employing unit, the priority is to staff regular required courses (including the following courses) and to provide assistance to faculty where needed:

This GTF employing unit:

☒ makes an effort to distribute GTF opportunities to as many students as possible.
☒ encourages financial opportunities through such other means as scholarships, work study, and grants.
☒ reserves a number of appointments for incoming students.

ACADEMIC YEAR APPOINTMENTS

The availability for GTF appointments for the upcoming academic year is usually determined by the end of spring quarter the year prior, at which time the students are notified of their funding status.

In recent years, GTF assignments during the academic year in this GTF employing unit have included:
☒ Instructor of Record
☒ Discussion Section Leader (full course responsibility)
☒ Laboratory Section Leader
☒ Teaching Assistant
SUMMER TERM APPOINTMENTS

The Department of Geography accepts applications for summer term teaching GTFs in January. The department will notify applicants of its decision around the end of April.

In recent years, GTF assignments during the summer in this GTF employing unit have included:

- Instructor of Record
- Discussion Section Leader (full course responsibility)
- Laboratory Section Leader
- Teaching Assistant
- Grader
- Research Assistant
- Administrative GTF
- Supervisory GTF (e.g., practicum supervisor)

3.0 ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

Students eligible for a GTF appointment in this GTF employing unit are:

Graduate students enrolled in the Department of Geography who are admitted to the program and who have applied for financial support.

Graduate students enrolled at the University of Oregon in interdisciplinary programs with an emphasis in Geography and who have specific experience necessary to perform the work assignment.

Note regarding graduate programs and departments that employ GTFs: Students enrolled in other UO graduate programs or departments who have appropriate experience and/or credentials are also eligible for GTF positions in this employing unit. In all cases, preference is given to the department or program’s own students.

Experience or credentials required in order to be considered include: Graduate students enrolled in other University of Oregon programs and who have specific experience necessary to perform the work assignment.

Students will be considered in the following order:

Recommendations for appointment and reappointment shall be made to the Department Head by the Geography faculty. This meets and exceeds the requirement that “the recommendations will be made by the standing committee of the department that will be made of at least three members.” Initial appointments of GTFs are made by the Department Head based on ranking of all applicants developed by the Geography faculty at a faculty meeting.
Appointments and reappointments will be based on evaluation of each candidate’s qualifications with respect to the academic promise of the new students and the quality of work of the students in residence. "Satisfactory Progress Toward Graduate Degree" is a minimal requirement of all reappointment candidates. See 11.0. Satisfactory performance as a GTF in the execution of assigned duties (see section 7) is also required. GTFs who conduct their own courses or lead laboratory or discussion sections also will be evaluated on the basis of student evaluations.

Consideration will be given to the adequacy of the applicants’ training in the specific content of courses to which GTFs will be assigned.

Consideration will be given for a positive working arrangement between a GTF and the faculty person with whom the GTF will work.

While appointment or reappointment criteria may include the recommendation of the person who will act as the GTF’s supervisor, the committee will give substantial consideration to the other appointment or reappointment criteria.

Recommendations from academic or work supervisors will be considered when making reappointments. The Department Head or the faculty will interview students if additional information is needed. Financial need will not be considered (except may be used in evaluating two or more equally qualified candidates).

This GTF employing unit has established a maximum number of reappointments for which a student is eligible. These are as follows:

Reappointments up to a total of two years are made to master’s candidates if they are making satisfactory progress toward a degree (see 10.0). Satisfactory performance as a GTF is also required. Ph.D. candidates may be appointed up to a total of 3 years if they are making satisfactory progress toward a degree. Satisfactory performance as a GTF is also required. No student will receive support for more than four years, except under unusual circumstances or to meet specific teaching needs of the Department. Unusual circumstances will not be defined ahead of time.

The Graduate School requires that students be enrolled for and successfully complete a minimum of 9 graduate credit hours towards the degree during each term of a GTF appointment and be making satisfactory progress toward their degree in order to be eligible for a GTF appointment (see Section 9).

This GTF employing unit does not require that a GTF maintain her/his studies in residency at the UO during each term of appointment.

4.0 APPLICATION PROCESS

ACADEMIC YEAR APPOINTMENTS
Information about the availability of positions for the upcoming academic year will be shared with incoming graduate students in the following ways:

Announcement of available positions for the upcoming academic year will be made by informing all applicants to the Geography graduate program that they may apply for financial aid, which includes the possibility of a GTF. This information is on the Department’s web page under Graduate Program.
Admissions. A brief description of each position's responsibilities, FTE and qualifications will be available by letter to those who inquire;

GTF positions that are available to graduate students from any discipline will be made by posting a brief description of each position's duties and responsibilities, FTE and workload, and appointment qualifications with the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation office, and on the websites of the Graduate School and Human Resources: (Article 17, Section 1).

Positions offered by the Department that are not included in the Spring term application pool will be filled by following the ranking process outlined in this statement in section 5.1 These positions will be filled at the first faculty meeting after the need has been identified.

Applicants will be considered for all assignments available.

Information about the availability of positions for the upcoming academic year will be shared with continuing graduate students in the following ways:
Department requires all current graduate students to fill out a form each January containing information on future plans and support needs. This information is due by the end of each winter term.

SUMMER TERM APPOINTMENTS
Information about the availability of positions (including specific position announcements where applicable) for the upcoming summer term will be shared with continuing graduate students in the following way(s):
Generally, the application process for incoming students includes:
Incoming graduate students start GTFs fall term. The Education in Geography (EDGE) summer MA program hires graduate students in the second year of the EDGE program.

Generally, the application process for continuing students includes:
In January the department will begin fill teaching assignments for summer sessions one and two. Graduate students are notified via Geography Department list serve that anyone interested in summer teaching send the summer coordinator an email with classes they are interested in teaching and a CV.

Each candidate will be sent a notice of the hiring decision within five working days after the decision has been made.

Occasionally, positions will be identified outside of the normal appointment cycle. Information about the availability of these positions will be made in the following way(s):
Positions offered by the Department that are not included in the Spring term application pool will be filled by following the ranking process outlined in this statement in section 5.1 These positions will be filled at the first faculty meeting after the need has been identified.

From time to time, in this unit, emergency appointments may be necessary. In such cases, these positions will be announced and filled in the following ways:
From time to time emergency appointments will be necessary. In such cases, the Department will give priority to qualified graduate students in the Department who had applied for GTF positions but did not receive an appointment and/or to qualified GTFs in the Department whose current FTE could be raised to include the required workload without exceeding .49 FTE.
5.0 APPOINTMENT AND REAPPOINTMENT

In accordance with the CBA, this GTF employing unit’s standing committee of at least three members includes:
Recommendations for appointment and reappointment shall be made to the Department Head by the Geography faculty. This meets and exceeds the requirement that “the recommendations will be made by the standing committee of the department that will be made of at least three members.” Initial appointments of GTFs are made by the Department Head based on ranking of all applicants developed by the Geography faculty at a faculty meeting.

Also in accordance with the CBA:

• GTFs will be appointed year-to-year rather than term-to-term, whenever feasible. GTFs are not employed term-by-term in order to determine whether they are adequately qualified for a GTF position.
• Reappointments are not automatic, nor are they guaranteed.
• In the case of the continuation of a particular position, the same student may continue in (i.e., be reappointed to) the particular GTF position without any new announcement of the position.

Appointments and reappointments will be based on evaluation of each candidate's qualifications with respect to eligibility criteria in section 3, as well as (A) general criteria for any appointment, (B) general criteria based on particular types of work assignments available within the GTF employing unit and (C) specific criteria relating to the particular GTF work assignment.

(A) General criteria include (in no particular order):

☑ Academic Credentials. For incoming students, this is evidenced by previous degrees and grades, test scores, etc. For students currently enrolled in the department, candidates will be ranked based on academic achievement. Making satisfactory progress toward the degree is an eligibility criterion, not a criterion on which rank in the applicant pool is determined.
☑ Recommendations from academic or work supervisors. Consideration will also be given for a positive working arrangement between a GTF and the faculty person with whom the GTF will work. While appointment or reappointment criteria may include the recommendation of the person who will act as the GTF’s supervisor, the committee must give substantial consideration to the other appointment or reappointment criteria.
☑ Previous experience. For teaching GTF positions, having previously taught or taken the course where the GTF position is offered. For non-teaching GTF positions, previous employment or other experience relevant to the GTF position available.
☐ Interviews. Finalists will be interviewed and evaluated based on their performance and responses.
☑ Financial need will be considered in evaluating two or more equally qualified candidates.

(B) Assignment Type-Related Criteria

For an Instructor of Record (full course responsibility): Extensive experience and knowledge of relevant teaching methods and subject matter

For a Discussion Section Leader: Basic background in subject matter
For a Laboratory Section Leader: Basic background in subject matter

For a Teaching Assistant: N/A

For a Grader: N/A

For a Research Assistant: Ability to fulfill the responsibilities as set forth by the Principal Investigator

For an Administrative GTF: N/A

For a Supervisory GTF: N/A

(C) All criteria specific to a particular GTF work assignment are specified in position announcements (see Section 2 above for how to access these position announcements).

See the position announcements for details.

Candidates will be rank-ordered based upon, first, the eligibility criteria in Section 3, and subsequently, the general, assignment type-related, and specific criteria referred to above. This applies to positions that become available outside the normal appointment cycle as well.

If no qualified students apply or are available for a particular position, the selection committee or department head may decide to reopen the application process for the position. Generally, same application process described in Section 4 and appointment/reappointment process described here will be repeated. However, the department reserves the right to proceed to fill the position as it would an emergency appointment. (also described in Section 4).

Performance of GTFs in this employing unit are evaluated:

☐ At the end of every term
☐ During spring term
☒ At the end of the academic year for GTFs appointed fall, winter and spring
☒ At the end of the summer term for summer GTFs

Faculty (TTF and NTTF) instructing a course with GTFs as graders or teaching assistants will evaluate the performance of GTFs in their course. The Director of Graduate Studies will evaluate all GTFs assigned to teach as instructors of record, and will coordinate faculty (TTF and NTTF) evaluation of all GTFs assisting in courses taught by another GTF.

Criteria used to determine teaching performance includes evaluation of the student's substantive command of the material/topic; level of organization and effectiveness in running classes/discussion sections, etc.; classroom pedagogy (including but not limited to rapport with students, engagement and enthusiasm in the classroom, clear and respectful communication with students); grading skill and timeliness in completing assignments from instructor of record.

6.0 WORKLOAD

Workload includes performance of all duties of the work assignment. For example, the workload for a teaching assignment would include preparation time, office hours and time spent interacting with
students via email or Blackboard, etc., in addition to time spent actually teaching. In setting the workload (and thus FTE) for a particular GTF position, GTF employing units consider what constitutes a workload sufficient to perform the work assignment satisfactorily.

In this GTF employing unit, GTFs are most commonly appointed at the following full time equivalent levels (FTE) and corresponding total workloads:

- .20 FTE (Up to 88 hours per term or up to 264 hours per academic year)
- .25 FTE (Up to 110 hours per term or up to 330 hours per academic year)
- .30 FTE (Up to 131 hours per term or up to 393 hours per academic year)
- .35 FTE (Up to 153 hours per term or up to 459 hours per academic year)
- .40 FTE (Up to 175 hours per term or up to 525 hours per academic year)
- .45 FTE (Up to 197 hours per term or up to 591 hours per academic year)
- .49 FTE (Up to 215 hours per term or up to 645 hours per academic year)

7.0 WORK ASSIGNMENTS

For various work assignments, the distribution of workload among various duties is considered to be reflective of average breakdowns within the normative standard of the total workload. The distribution of time actually spent on duties may vary from week to week, but the workload per term should be within the designated number of total workload hours. GTFs are encouraged to track how they spend their work hours and to contact their supervisors early in the term if the distribution of time they are spending on individual duties varies widely from established expectations. This section sets forth expectations around duties for GTF assignment types in this unit.

NOTE: Where the workload is broken down by work assignment duties and is designated as a "minimum" number of hours, the GTF is required to fulfill that specific time commitment.

In this GTF employing unit, duties for the following types of GTF work assignments are as follows:

DUTIES BY WORK ASSIGNMENT
Instructor of Record:

Full Course Responsibility GTF (0.49 FTE/term)

- In-class contact hours: 40
  Conduct lectures, laboratory or discussion sections, and lead review sessions, proctor exams

- Preparation hours: 90
  Prepare lectures, lecture demonstrations, laboratory or discussion sessions, adapt or develop syllabus and course materials, construct examinations and quizzes, develop and maintain course web page

- Contact hours outside the classroom: 35
  Hold office hours (two hours per week) for counseling, tutoring, special consultations

Performance evaluation: 50
  Read and grade papers, exams, quizzes, maps, special projects, maintain and submit grading records in compliance with the Department and University regulations.
Discussion Section Leader:

Teaching Assistant GTF leading sections (0.2 FTE/term)

In-Class contact and assisting faculty in class... hours per term: 50
Attend lectures, assist with AV, field trips, proctor exams, meet sections

Preparation, contact outside the classroom and performance evaluation... hours per term: 38
Prepare for sections, hold office hours for counseling, tutoring, special consultations, grade assignments and exams, develop course web page

Teaching Assistant GTF leading sections (0.4 FTE/term)

In-Class contact and assisting... hours per term: 70
Attend lectures, assist with AV, field trips, proctor exams, meet sections

Preparation, contact outside the classroom and performance evaluation... hours per term: 91
Prepare for sections, hold office hours for counseling, tutoring, special consultations, grade assignments and exams, develop course web page

Discretionary time... hours per term: 14

Laboratory Section Leader:

Teaching Assistant GTF leading sections (0.2 FTE/term)

In-Class contact and assisting faculty in class... hours per term: 50
Attend lectures, assist with AV, field trips, proctor exams, meet sections

Preparation, contact outside the classroom and performance evaluation... hours per term: 38
Prepare for sections, hold office hours for counseling, tutoring, special consultations, grade assignments and exams, develop course web page

Teaching Assistant GTF leading sections (0.4 FTE/term)

In-Class contact and assisting... hours per term: 70
Attend lectures, assist with AV, field trips, proctor exams, meet sections

Preparation, contact outside the classroom and performance evaluation... hours per term: 91
Prepare for sections, hold office hours for counseling, tutoring, special consultations, grade assignments and exams, develop course web page

Discretionary time... hours per term: 14

Teaching Assistant:

Teaching Assistant GTF not leading sections (0.2 FTE/term)

In-Class contact and assisting... hours per term: 30
Attend lectures, assist with AV, field trips, proctor exams

Preparation, contact outside the classroom and performance evaluation . . . hours per term: 31
Hold office hours for counseling, tutoring, special consultations, grade assignments and exams, develop course web page.

Discretionary time . . . . . . . . . . . hours per term: 27

Flexible time to accommodate various teaching styles and course diversity

Grader:
Grader GTF not leading discussion sections (.2 FTE/ term)
In-Class contact and assisting . . . . . . . . . . . . . . hours per term: 30
Attend lectures, assist with AV, field trips, proctor exams

Preparation, contact outside the classroom and performance evaluation . . . hours per term: 31
Hold office hours for counseling, tutoring, special consultations, grade assignments and exams, develop course web page.

Discretionary time . . . . . . . . . . . hours per term: 27

Research Assistant:
Research Assistant GTF (0.2 FTE/term or 0.4 FTE/term or 0.49 FTE/term)

Research Activities . . . hours per term: 88 for 0.2; 175 for 0.4; 215 for 0.49
Assists faculty member with academic research project, reporting directly to supervising faculty member

Administrative GTF:
N/A

Supervisory GTF:
N/A

8.0 HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION

Accident Reporting and Workers’ Compensation:
The University's Workers' Compensation Program is administered by the Office of Risk Management (ORM). If you have any questions about the program, please call 346-8912 or 346-8316.

All University of Oregon employees, including GTFs, are covered by workers' compensation insurance through SAIF Corporation. This coverage is for occupational injuries, illnesses or diseases that arise out of or in the course and scope of employment.

The University has established procedures for reporting accidents and filing workers' compensation claims. They are intended to expedite claims processing and to minimize the possibility of delays in
payment of benefits. If a GTF is injured on the job, the GTF must report it immediately to the supervisor. The supervisor will complete the Safety Incident or Accident Report (SIAR) with the GTF. If, as a result of the accident, the GTF requires medical care, a Workers’ Compensation Claim Form (801) must be completed within 24 hours. If, due to the nature of the injury or illness, the GTF is unable to complete the 801, the supervisor will submit it on behalf of the GTF. Workers’ compensation information and forms are available at [http://orm.uoregon.edu/content/injury-reporting-and-workers-compensation](http://orm.uoregon.edu/content/injury-reporting-and-workers-compensation). Forms can also be obtained from Departmental office managers or ORM.

Oregon laws prohibit discrimination or retaliation by an employer against an employee for filing a workers’ compensation claim or a safety-related complaint with OSHA (Occupational Safety and Health Administration).

In addition to medical expenses related to the injury/illness, benefits provided by SAIF Corporation may also include temporary total disability payments if the GTF is unable to work as authorized by an attending physician. These payments equal 66 2/3% of the GTF’s average weekly wage (up to a maximum established by the Oregon Legislature). Mileage payments for medical appointments and prescription reimbursements are also examples of benefits provided by SAIF Corporation. Certain medical treatments, however, are subject to exclusion. The GTF will be notified by SAIF Corporation of the rights and coverage when the claim is processed.

An injured GTF who is unable to work may not receive both salary compensation from workers’ compensation and sick leave or other pay when this results in the GTF receiving more than his/her regular monthly salary. Should this occur and payment is received from both sources, the GTF must be prepared to repay any over-payments. If the GTF believes there is some confusion about salary or workers’ compensation benefits, contact ORM immediately.

ORS 659A.043 – 659A.052 describe reinstatement or reemployment rights for employees who have sustained a compensable occupational injury or illness.

**Safety Information:** The Office of Environmental Health and Safety (EH&S) is responsible for the University’s safety programs. For questions or information regarding any of these programs, contact EH&S at 541-346-3192 or visit their website, [http://ehs.uoregon.edu/](http://ehs.uoregon.edu/).

**Reporting Safety Hazards:** GTFs who identify safety hazards and issues are encouraged to discuss them immediately with their supervisor. The following unit representative may also be contacted: Director of Graduate Studies Xiaobo Su (541-346-4568) and / or Department Head Amy Lobben (541-346-4566).

Other resources on campus to report such information include the Office of Environmental Health and Safety, a Safety Advisory Committee representative or a GTFF union representative. Off-campus resources include the local OSHA office and the Bureau of Labor and Industries (BOLI).

**Location of emergency procedures, evacuation plans, material data safety sheets (MSDS) and first aid supplies:** Materials describing the above are held in the Geography Department main office and in the Physical Geography laboratories. The person responsible for maintaining this information in the main office is the Office Manager. The person responsible for maintaining this information in the Physical Geography laboratories is the appropriate Lab manager.

**Use of Personal Protective Equipment:** The only lab in which safety equipment is needed is the biogeography wet lab (215 Pacific), where the following personal safety equipment is used and stored:
1) eye protection, 2) lab coats 3) gloves for acid, 4) bib for acid, 5) a respirator, 6) calcium gluconate (HF antidote), 7) face mask for acid, 8) fume hood (not a "personal" item but essential), 9) eye wash faucet.

**Required safety training and appropriate departmental record keeping:**

The lab where this safety equipment is used and necessary is run by Professor Dan Gavin. Incoming grad students take the laboratory safety course in the fall offered by Environmental Health and Safety office [http://ehs.uoregon.edu/training](http://ehs.uoregon.edu/training)

This course is a 3-hour session covering chemical hazards, the UO Chemical Hygiene Plan, emergency procedures, safety practices, and regulations suitable for new graduate students, other new UO lab workers, and as a refresher for existing staff. Laboratory-specific and abbreviated courses are available upon request.

Apart from having GTFs take this safety course, Professor Gavin provides detailed lab guidelines regarding hazardous chemicals and coordinates all of the safety-related issues in the lab (215 Pacific, the location of the wet lab where dangerous chemicals are stored and used). Professor Gavin keeps the "personal protective equipment" up to date and maintains a record of student safety training.

GTFs who drive state vans for field trips or other department business are required to take the University of Oregon’s van training class and hold a current University of Oregon Driver Certification Card. GTFs must renew their driver certification cards annually.

**9.0 SATISFACTORY PROGRESS TOWARD THE GRADUATE DEGREE**

Because a GTF appointment is the method by which departments can offer financial support to promising students in a graduate degree program, and should be beneficial to the student's development in that program, individuals appointed as GTFs are regarded primarily as graduate students providing service as part of their learning experience, rather than solely as employees whose education is secondary.

The criteria used to assess satisfactory progress toward a graduate degree is the same for all graduate students in a particular graduate degree program, whether or not they hold a GTF position. For GTFs, satisfactory progress toward the degree is an eligibility requirement of GTF appointment and reappointment. Each GTF employing unit (employer) is responsible for verifying that the GTF is making satisfactory progress toward his/her degree, whether or not the hiring unit is also the GTF’s graduate degree program. The GTF’s progress toward the degree is assessed based on criteria established by the GTF’s graduate degree program, regardless of where the GTF is employed.

Graduate School Minimum GPA: During the academic year, the Graduate School reviews academic transcripts of all graduate students holding GTF appointments. The Graduate School will notify a GTF's graduate degree program if the GTF's academic performance during the appointment period falls below the Graduate School's 3.0 GPA standard. The degree program will be asked to review the student's progress toward her/his graduate degree and issue its approval before a GTF reappointment can be made to that student.

This section describes satisfactory progress criteria specific to academic units that have graduate degree programs. In other types of GTF employing units, the GTF should refer to the GDRS for his/her academic program and/or inquire with the graduate program director or graduate coordinator/secretary.
This GTF employing unit is an:

- academic unit with a graduate degree program. See remainder of this section for details about satisfactory progress requirements and expectations for graduate students in this academic unit.
- academic unit with no graduate degree program. Satisfactory progress is determined by each GTF’s graduate program. See that program’s GDRS for more information.
- administrative, research, or non-academic unit. Satisfactory progress is determined by each GTF’s graduate program. See that program’s GDRS for more information.

Maintaining satisfactory progress toward their degree is detailed in our Graduate Handbook:

http://geography.uoregon.edu/graduate/gradhandbook/

Criteria used in assessing satisfactory progress toward a graduate degree in the Department of Geography is as follows:

Coursework requirements for satisfactory progress are documented in the Department of Geography Graduate Program Handbook. No statements here shall conflict with these two documents. The Graduate Program handbook is provided to all incoming graduate students in the Department, and is available to currently enrolled students at any time through the Department office.

Students must achieve a Pass or a mid-B or better mark for all courses required for the graduate degree. At any one time, a student shall have no more than three incompletes, except for thesis or dissertation credits.

In addition, each student is responsible for seeing that the requirements of the Graduate School are met and should make sure that necessary committees have been appointed and that proper forms have been filed on time; and each student is expected to participate fully in non-credit departmental activities such as tea/seminars, field trips, and specially scheduled lectures. Each student should make sure that all variations from the schedule for satisfactory progress toward the relevant graduate degree are approved by her/his major advisor and the Director of Graduate Studies and recorded in the student’s file.

Graduate Teaching Fellowships will be maintained when possible only for students who make satisfactory progress toward completion of their degree. See section 5 for possible reappointment periods. No student will receive support for more than four years, except under unusual circumstances or to meet specific teaching needs of the Department. Unusual circumstances will not be defined ahead of time.

Criteria Used to Assess Satisfactory Progress

The criteria used to assess satisfactory progress toward a graduate degree in this unit are as follows:

Coursework: In order to make satisfactory progress toward their degree, graduate students need to make progress on completing the core requirements of their degree (at the master’s or the doctoral level) and they need to progress on the coursework outlined by their advising committee during their annual progress meeting. The mix of courses identified beyond the core requirements is individualized and documented for each student during their annual progress meeting. Below we list the core course
requirements for the M.A. and Ph.D. respectively:

**MA Core Course Requirement:** You must take the following courses during your first year in residence at the University of Oregon.
- **Fall:** GEOG 608: Workshop in Thesis Writing and GEOG 611: Theory and Practice of Geography
- **Winter:** GEOG 612: Current Trends in Geography and either GEOG 595 OR 597: (Quantitative or Qualitative methods)
- **Spring:** GEOG 613: Research Design

*Purpose:* To introduce students to the demands and challenges of graduate research, to acquaint students with major evolution and current status of theoretical and methodological debates in geography, and to provide a forum in which students can get to know one another and members of the faculty.

**MA Geographic Breadth Requirement:** Graduate students need to complete five “breadth” course requirements unless a student has previously taken their equivalents at another institution. These five classes must be distributed among three areas of specialization listed here, with no more than two courses in any one area contributing to the breadth requirement: (a) upper-division course(s) in physical geography; (b) upper-division course(s) in human geography; and (c) upper-division course(s) in Geographic Information Science.

*Purpose:* To ensure breadth of knowledge within the discipline by requiring students to take courses in different subfields of geography.

**MA Graduate Seminar Requirement:** Completion of a minimum of two graduate seminars (GEOG 607) from different faculty members. It is recommended to have completed some coursework in the field of the seminar before taking it. Students are encouraged to take additional seminars in their field of specialization, and may be required by their adviser and committee to do so.

*Purpose:* To ensure that a student will gain experience in the process of defining a research question and preparing a substantial research paper.

**PhD Core Course Requirement:** During their first year of study at University of Oregon, doctoral students must complete the fall, winter and spring sequence of courses listed under the master’s degree requirements—e.g. GEOG 608, 611, 612, 613(Research Design) and one methodology course** (see section III). Beyond this first-year core also required of M.A. students, before advancing to candidacy Ph.D. students are required to have completed the ‘other’ methods course not already completed, either qualitative methods (GEOG 597 or approved equivalent) or quantitative methods (GEOG 595 or approved equivalent). Any substitution of geography course requirements must be made with prior authorization of the Director of Graduate Studies.

**As noted in the master’s degree requirements,** if a student completed an advanced methodology course at another university prior to arriving at UO, the requirement of taking a methodology course during the first year can be waived.

**PhD Geographic Breadth Requirement:** Completion of a master’s degree in geography or equivalent study that includes courses required for the M.A. or M.S. degree in geography at the University of Oregon.

**PhD Graduate Seminar Requirement:** Completion of at least two graduate geography seminars (GEOG
607) from different faculty members, after admission to the doctoral program. Students are encouraged to take additional seminars in their field of specialization, and may be required to do so by their advising committee.

Purpose: To ensure that a student will gain experience in the process of defining a research question and preparing a substantial research paper.

PhD Preparation in field(s) of specialization: Completion of courses and seminars recommended by the adviser or committee members.

Purpose: To develop a deeper mastery of the concepts, methods and techniques of a subfield of geography, and to prepare to conduct independent research for the dissertation.

PhD Research Workshop Requirement: During the fall and spring quarters of each year prior to receipt of the doctoral degree, each student must register for GEOG 608, a one hour research workshop that meets regularly during the term.

Purpose: To encourage students and faculty to share research issues and concerns with one another, and to provide students with a setting in which they are challenged to think critically about the work of others and to defend their own work in an environment of constructive criticism.

Grades:
To maintain satisfactory progress toward their degree graduate students must pass at least three courses / quarter related to their Geography degree and training (this includes readings as well as regular courses). More than three incompletes indicate unsatisfactory progress toward degree. Once a doctoral students successfully passes their comprehensive exams, successful progress is assess through registering for dissertation and thesis credits.

Graduate credit is awarded for courses numbered in the 500s or 600s. To receive graduate credit, you must earn a grade of P (Pass), B- or higher. Performance equivalent to a grade of B- or higher is required for a grade of P in graduate coursework. In general, the Geography Department allows the student the choice of taking their graduate courses for grades or Pass/No Pass. Some students elect to take most courses as P/N, while others prefer grades. In some courses, the instructor may limit grading to either graded only or P/N only. The Graduate School requires that your cumulative GPA as a graduate student be 3.0 or higher to earn a graduate degree. See the graduate studies section of the University of Oregon catalog or ask the Graduate School for other policies on grades and incompletes.

Examinations:
Comprehensive Exam Requirement: Doctoral students must pass a comprehensive examination in order to obtain the status of Ph.D. candidate. Students are expected to take their comprehensive examination within two to three years of commencing the doctoral program. (See section on Procedure for Comprehensive Exam below.) Geographic breadth requirements, seminars, and the language/skills/programming requirements must be completed before the comprehensive exam is taken. A comprehensive exam committee consisting of three Geography Department faculty members administers the exam. If a student fails a comprehensive examination, he or she may take a new examination with a start date no later than six months after a decision has been communicated on the first examination. Students who do not pass the comprehensive exam the second time will be dismissed from the program. For more information, see The Comprehensive Exam.
Purpose: Ensures that students have significant breadth and depth in the discipline prior to admission to doctoral candidacy, as well as experience in framing questions and answering them in an analytically rigorous fashion. Requiring that the comprehensive exam is taken after seminars and the language/skills requirements have been met ensures that the student can be admitted to doctoral candidacy immediately after passing the comprehensive exam. It also ensures that students undertake the comprehensive exam with background in defining research questions and preparing research papers, and with sufficient linguistic or technical skills to open up a broader range of sources or methodologies in answering questions.

Research:
MA Thesis Proposal Requirement: Approval of a short research proposal by the thesis committee and the Graduate Program Director by the end of your third quarter in the graduate program. With permission of the thesis committee, this deadline may be extended by one quarter. The proposal should include the elements listed below under Sample Outline. It should be no more than four pages, double-spaced, not including bibliography and figures. If it is necessary to change the scope of the project at a later date, the thesis committee will decide whether a new proposal is needed. Failure to present an approved proposal by the end of your fourth quarter in residence will be deemed to constitute unsatisfactory progress toward your degree. Students in this situation may be suspended from the program. They may be reinstated upon petition accompanied by a research proposal that is acceptable to the thesis committee.

Purpose: To define the research topic and approach in the first year, so that the student can identify and begin research during the summer.

Sample outline for master’s thesis proposal:
1. Tentative thesis title, author, date of proposal
2. Statement of problem: What are the research questions? Why are these questions significant?
3. Objectives and procedures: What do you plan to do? How will you go about collecting information and analyzing it, i.e. what is your research plan? What is your study area (if relevant) and why is this an appropriate study area?
4. Funding: What are the costs of the project? What sources of funding are being or will be pursued?
5. Work plan and schedule: What are the steps involved in completing the project? How long will each step take you and when will it be accomplished? What is your anticipated completion date?
6. References cited
7. Space for proposal approval:
   Approval Recommended:
   Chair, Thesis Committee Date
   Committee Member 1 Date
   Committee Member 2 Date
   Graduate Program Director Date

PhD Dissertation Advisor and Committee Requirement: The members of the dissertation committee are decided upon and a letter recommending appointment of the committee is sent by the department to the Graduate School. The major adviser is usually recommended to be dissertation committee chair. This should be done within one month after advancement and no later than six months before completion of the dissertation. The outside member must belong to a department that offers a Ph.D. or be on an approved list of the Graduate School. If the recommended members are approved, the Graduate School then sends each member a formal notice of appointment. After advancement to candidacy, the student must complete a minimum of eighteen credit hours in GEOG 603.
*Purpose:* See Advisor and Thesis Committee Requirement under the Master’s requirements. The addition of a committee member outside of geography ensures a broad range of input into the student’s work.

**Dissertation Proposal Requirement:** Doctoral students complete and defend their dissertation proposal within nine months of completion of the comprehensive exam. In many instances students finish and defend the proposal much earlier than this departmental deadline, each student should consult with their committee about the appropriate timing for completing and defending the dissertation proposal. It is often strategic to time the formal dissertation proposal defense before large funding applications are due, as the defense process can strengthen those funding proposals considerably.

The dissertation proposal should state and explain the following elements: the research question or questions, how these questions are related to previous published research literature, the significance of the questions, and a methodology appropriate to the research problem. The document must be in one of the following forms: (a) a written dissertation proposal with the elements listed above (10-15 pages in length, minimum 1.5 spacing) or (b) a grant application equivalent to a proposal for an NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant or Research Fulbright.

*Purpose:* To promote well-focused research by encouraging students to articulate and justify their research question, and to encourage students to compete for research funding as appropriate.

**Language Requirements:**

**MA Foreign Language/Programming Requirement:** Reading skill in one foreign language or computer programming skills. You must consult your major advisor and get his/her approval on the option you choose, and if it is the language option, which language.

*Purpose:* To expose students to the patterns of thought employed in learning a second language or computer programming skill, to provide students with a better understanding of the nature of English through the perspectives on language gained through the acquisition of another language, and to provide students with the tools to conduct research that utilizes a foreign language or computer programming.

*Guidelines for completing the foreign language requirement:* This requirement can be met either by successfully completing a second-year, university-level foreign language course sequence during the seven-year period prior to the receipt of the master’s degree, or by passing the College Level Exam Program test (CLEP) at the score required by the Graduate School, or the Graduate Student Foreign Language Test (GSFLT) at a level equivalent to the 25th percentile or better. If these tests are not offered in the language relevant to your research specialization, the Geography Department may allow another language exam to be substituted. (See the Graduate Studies Director for more information.)

*Guidelines for completing the computer programming requirement:* Computer programming skill is typically demonstrated by a minimum of two approved courses and authorship of a program used in the thesis research. A program authored by the student before undertaking the master’s thesis may be accepted with approval of the advisor and Graduate Studies Director. Where appropriate courses are not available at University of Oregon, the student may be directed toward courses at another institution or independent study supervised by an appropriate faculty member. Recommended programming languages include Fortran, C++, Visual Basic, Perl, Matlab, Flash, Python, S-Plus, and R.
PhD Foreign Language/Programming/Skills Requirement: Completion of the foreign language or programming requirement for the master’s degree plus one of the following: (a) advanced knowledge of the foreign language used for the master’s requirement, as shown by successfully completing a third-year, university-level course sequence in that language that deals with composition and conversation, or passing an approved test of third-year language skills (such as the NYU Foreign Language Proficiency Exam); (b) proficiency in a second foreign language at the level required for the master’s degree; (c) computer programming skills at the level required for the master’s degree; or (d) completion of a research skills package typically consisting of four to five courses that cover a body of related methods and techniques useful in geographic research. See Examples of Research Skills Packages below.

Purpose: See Foreign Language/Programming Requirement under the master's program for the basic rationale. A higher level of language proficiency or the mastery of a technique or method required for the Ph.D. reflects the greater background and skills needed to conduct advanced, original research.

Students should choose the option to fulfill this requirement in a way that best suits their doctoral research needs, in consultation with their thesis advisor and committee.

Teaching Requirement: Graduate students accepting GTF appointments for the first time must attend the UO Graduate School’s GTF orientation the week prior to fall classes. They must also attend a brief GTF orientation in the Geography Department during that same week. The schedule for these events is provided for all incoming and ongoing students during the summer prior to each academic year.

Skill/Practicum/Internship Requirement: N/A

Advancement to Candidacy:
Comprehensive Exam Requirement: Doctoral students must pass a comprehensive examination in order to obtain the status of Ph.D. candidate. Students are expected to take their comprehensive examination within two years of commencing the doctoral program. (See section on Procedure for Comprehensive Exams in the Geography department Graduate Student Handbook.) Geographic breadth requirements, seminars, and the language/skills/programming requirements must be completed before the comprehensive exams are taken. A comprehensive exam committee consisting of three Geography Department faculty members administers the exam. If a student fails a comprehensive examination, he or she may take a new examination with a start date no later than six months after a decision has been communicated on the first examination. Students who do not pass the comprehensive exam the second time will be dismissed from the program. For more information, see The Comprehensive Exams.

Purpose: Ensures that students have significant breadth and depth in the discipline prior to admission to doctoral candidacy, as well as experience in framing questions and answering them in an analytically rigorous fashion. Requiring that comprehensives be taken after seminars and the language/skills requirements have been met ensures that the student can be admitted to doctoral candidacy immediately after passing the comprehensives. It also ensures that students undertake the comprehensives with background in defining research questions and preparing research papers, and with sufficient linguistic or technical skills to open up a broader range of sources or methodologies in answering questions.

Other: The student’s graduate committee will evaluate each graduate student’s progress on an annual basis at an annual progress meeting.
The process for evaluating satisfactory progress toward graduate degree is as follows: Student's progress toward their degree, and an evaluation of their performance, is completed as part of their annual "progress meeting" with their advising committee (winter quarter for ongoing students; spring quarter for first-year graduate students). Beyond assessing minimal satisfactory performance, students are also provided feedback on their overall academic performance, which considers issues such as motivation and resourcefulness, commitment to scholarly projects, independent, creative and original thinking, as well as the development of professional skills (collegiality, effective communication with colleagues, etc.).

More details about the timing of progress meetings, and all the issues covered at these meetings, can be found in the Geography Department Graduate Student Handbook.

Failure to make satisfactory progress toward the graduate degree: If at an annual progress meeting a student is found to have not made satisfactory progress toward their degree, the committee writes a short memo to the Director of Graduate Studies reporting and justifying that determination. The Director of Graduate Studies should meet with the student to discuss the situation and reflect on how it developed. If the student is interested in continuing in the graduate program, the student should work with their committee to chart out how the student might re-gain satisfactory progress toward their degree. This path should include specific outcomes and create an exact timeline for improvement. Within two quarters following the progress meeting at which unsatisfactory progress was determined (not counting summer), the Director of Graduate Studies will review the student’s progress toward their degree and make a recommendation to the faculty as to whether the student’s standing should shift to “satisfactory progress” or whether the student has not progressed satisfactorily and thus should be dismissed from the program. Any determination of continuing in the program, or dismissal, will be made by the faculty as a whole.

10.0 DISCIPLINE AND DISCHARGE

A GTF appointment may be terminated pursuant to the conditions specified by Article 16 of the GTFF Collective Bargaining Agreement. Article 16 further outlines procedures for informing the GTF of deficiencies in their work performance or progress toward the degree.

11.0 DISCRIMINATION GRIEVANCE PROCEDURES

To file an employment-related discrimination grievance, GTFs are encouraged to contact the Graduate Teaching Fellows Federation. For discrimination grievances that pertain to a GTF’s role as a student, graduate students should refer to the student section of the AAEO Discrimination Grievance Procedures online, http://aaeo.uoregon.edu/AAEO%20Booklet%20Color.pdf

12.0 WORK ENVIRONMENT

This section provides information about GTF facilities and services described in Article 10 of the GTFF Collective Bargaining Agreement.

Information detailing this unit's GTF work environment (work space; access to telephones, computers and private meeting space, supplies and equipment, etc.; and GTF assistance) can be found online or in another document: Work Environment and Materials--These policies apply to all graduate students

Department Office Hours: The department office is open from 8:00 until 12:00 noon and from 1:00 to
5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Activities involving the department office (copying, picking up mail, etc.) should be done during open office hours.

**Workspace:** Office Space: All GTFs will have their own desk space, usually in an office shared with other GTFs. These shared offices have working locks, as well as at least one workstation with internet connections. GTFs are responsible for making sure office doors are locked when they leave their office.

**Private Meeting Space:** Conference Rooms: The Geography Department has a small conference room that may be reserved for student conferences. Reservations may be made in the main office, 107 Condon Hall.

**Access to Telephones and Computers:** Phones: Telephone service is provided in most graduate student offices. Campus calls require only a 5-digit number beginning with 6; dial 9 + the 10-digit number for local off-campus calls. Long distance calls for university business require an authorization code. These are issued to faculty and staff. All research related or university business long distance calls need to be authorized by a faculty member who should lend you their authorization code. Personal long distance calls can be made by dialing 9 + 0+ ten digit number, wait for second dial tone, and dial your own calling card number. Phones in the main office are not available for general use.

Fax machine: The department fax machine is available for official University business only. Fax services for personal use (both sending and receiving) are available at the University of Oregon Bookstore, the Erb Memorial Union Ticket Office (sending only) or the Copy Shop located at 539 E. 13th Avenue.

Computers: The computers in the Geography Faculty and Graduate Student Research Lab in Condon 167 (the Kariel Lab) provide computing resources for teaching activities and research projects conducted by faculty and graduate students. This lab is accessible via a key code (available to all graduate students who sign a user agreement) 24 hours a day. In addition, graduate students have access to a shared computer in most of the graduate student offices for GTF related work, viewing email, web browsing and homework. Use of lab and office computers and other computer resources and facilities within the Geography department binds the user to adhere to professional computing standards and ethics while using its resources and facilities. Refer to University of Oregon Computing Center Use Policy to obtain guidelines for the appropriate use of computing resources at the University of Oregon.

Unauthorized use of the network, unauthorized use of others files, copying software, and using the network to break a system are considered violations of professional standards and ethics in computing. Installing software, viewing pornography, game playing, abusing equipment, and other actions deemed unacceptable are not tolerated. Computer users may not install their own software into the computers without prior written approval of the department head. Geography Department software must never be copied. This is a violation of copyright law.

Contact the Geography Department computer support technician for help with department computing resources.

**Access to Office Supplies, Photocopies and Printouts:** Copy machine: A coin operated photocopier is available in the Knight Library for public use. Use of the department copier should be limited to class materials (classes for which you are the GTF, not the ones that you are taking) and grant related copying. Our machine has double-sided copy capability which we encourage you to use whenever feasible. Large jobs of 50 copies or more should go to Printing Services, which usually has at least a 24-hour turnaround
time. There's a lot of competition for the copy machine so plan ahead. Please don't expect to interrupt someone else's job because your class is beginning in ten minutes.

Printing: A printer capable of black & white as well as color printing is available for graduate students in the Kariel Computing Lab.

Supplies: The department furnishes supplies related to teaching or assisting with classes. Things like chalk, wet and dry erase pens, pencils, thumbtacks, and transparencies are provided. Letterhead stationery and envelopes are available for departmental business.

**GTF Assistance:** If graduate students accept to teach a course as instructor of record we keep the workload within a .49 GTF appointment. Graduate student instructors are assigned GTFs as assistants if the course has discussion sections / labs and/or when the enrollment size merits GTF assistance given the nature of the course.