

Generals Papers policies

Generals Papers (GPs) are original research papers written by a student as part of the Candidacy Portfolio. Each student must successfully complete two GPs, in addition to a Thesis Prospectus, to be allowed to advance to the Oral Candidacy Exam. The format of the GP is that of a journal article in the relevant sub-discipline of linguistics. In order to be deemed acceptable, the paper must be judged to be of professional quality—i.e., it must make a substantive original contribution to current work in the area, and exhibit clarity in form of presentation.

In terms of subject matter, the two GPs should be written on topics reflecting distinct subject areas or methodologies. The overall aim is for students to demonstrate command of two sub-disciplines which could eventually become their primary and secondary research areas, and to ensure the scholastic breadth and the depth needed to be competitive on the post-doctoral and tenure-track job market. Both papers must conform to areas of expertise represented within the Department.

The following cannot be submitted for evaluation as a GP:

- a literature review (unless it is a comprehensive review paper showing evidence of original synthesis, giving a sense of historical trends, or critiquing previous research)
- a tagged or untagged corpus (compiled through text analysis, testing, or observation)

1. Timeline

The first GP is due one week after the final day of classes of the Winter term of the second year of the programme (end of semester 4). The second GP is due one week after the final day of classes of the Fall term of the third year of the programme (end of semester 5).

	Fall	Winter	Spring/Summer
Year 1	courses		
Year 2		GP 1 due April	
Year 3	GP 2 due December	Prospectus and Oral Candidacy	

The prospectus and defence would then be completed no later than August 31 of the third year. FGSR regulations now require that students who fail to meet the August 31 deadline for Candidacy must apply to the Department for an extension.

2. Presentation of papers

Papers will be presented at a mini-conference at the beginning of the term following the completion of a GP (Winter term for papers completed in December and Fall term for papers completed in April). The presentation will take the form of a conference-style paper delivered in a 30 minute slot, 20 for the paper and 10 for questions. The presentation will not form part of the evaluation of the GP or of the student's readiness to advance to Oral Candidacy, although

students may not advance to Oral Candidacy until their first GP been presented. Presentations will be open to the public.

3. GP courses and the GP Director

Students will register in their first GP course (LING 693) in their fourth semester (Winter term of second year) and in their second GP course (LING 694) in their fifth semester (Fall term of third year). The grade for the course (CR/NC) will be assigned based on the successful completion of the paper. The GPs are normally directed by a full-time, continuing Faculty member from the Department of Linguistics (the **GP Director**) who may or may not be the student's Supervisor and who will be the instructor of record for the GP course; any exceptions to this rule must be approved by the student's supervisor and the Associate Chair, Graduate, or Chair. Students are advised to make arrangements with potential GP Directors and to begin preparatory work for the writing of the GP well in advance of the semester in which they register for the GP course.

4. Extensions and variances

Extensions: Students who are unable to complete their GPs by the specified dates must apply to the Graduate Committee, through the GP Director, for an **extension**. The extension may be applied for at any time during the writing of the GP until two weeks before the due date of the paper (one week before the end of classes for that term). The extension must be justifiable in terms of external or unforeseen circumstances, academic or personal, and will normally only be for a period of 2–3 weeks for the written part of the paper. A paper that is granted an extension will be presented at the end of the following semester. The Graduate Committee may choose not to grant an extension, resulting in a Fail for the paper if it is not handed in by the original due date. Students who are granted an extension will be given a grade of IN in the GP course in question, with a completion date as set by the Graduate Committee. The granting of an extension for a first GP is not grounds for delay in the completion of the second GP.

Variances: Students whose programme of research is very likely to result in delays to the completion of the GPs can apply, through their Supervisor, to the Graduate Committee for a **variance** in the scheduling of one or both GPs. A variance must be requested before the writing of the papers begins, and must contain a detailed explanation for the need for the variance and why undertaking this type of research before the completion of Candidacy is important for the student's programme. At the time of granting the variance, the Graduate Committee will set a new schedule for the completion of the student's GPs, which will normally take the form of an additional semester granted for the completion of the Candidacy process. Supervisors and Supervisory Committees are strongly advised to encourage students to avoid designing a research programme that will result in the need for a variance.

In exceptional circumstances where a GP Director resigns or leaves the University, a variance may be granted by the Graduate Committee to allow the student time to find a new GP Director and/or begin a new GP on a different topic. Variances may also be granted in cases of extreme personal hardship affecting the student's ability to participate in the programme.

5. Evaluation

Papers are evaluated on a pass/fail basis. The GP Director's decision on the acceptability of a paper must be made within 5 days of the paper's due date to allow for the scheduling of the presentation; detailed commentary on the paper may be deferred to a later date.

If a paper is deemed unacceptable by the GP Director, the Director may make one of two decisions:

- 1) If the paper is acceptable in terms of content but not in terms of writing, or seems salvageable within a reasonable period of time, the Director may give a grade of IN for the course, along with an extended date for completion of *no more than three weeks*. Papers that are not successfully completed in the extension period will be deemed a Fail and a grade of NC will be assigned to the GP course.
- 2) If the paper is judged by the GP Director not to be redeemable within the time period set out for an incomplete in (1), it will be considered to be a Fail. Failure will result in a grade of NC being assigned to the GP course in progress.

Students who fail any GP course may be required to withdraw from the programme. In the case of a failure on a GP, the Graduate Committee has the option of allowing an attempt at another GP on a different topic. A second failure in a GP course will result in the student being required to withdraw from the programme.

A separate evaluation and approval of the GPs by the Oral Candidacy Examining Committee will no longer be required, though the final version of both GPs (the version submitted to the GP Director at the end of the GP course, or a minor revision thereof based on the GP director's final set of written comments) will be submitted to the Committee along with the Prospectus as part of the package of material for the examination.

6. Role of the GP Director and Co-authorship

The role of the GP Director is to assist the student in the refinement of a topic, help the student familiarize themselves with the literature, give advice on method and experimental design, and offer feedback on data analysis, writing, and argumentation. Because the GPs are an evaluation of the student's ability to conduct and communicate independent research and constitute part of the written portion of the Doctoral Candidacy Exam, the GP Director's role should remain that of an advisor. Likewise, collaboration with other students or Faculty should be strictly limited and should extend to no more than, for example, assistance with instruments, apparatus, or other technical aspects of the running of experiments and data collection, advice on statistical methods, or the provision of raw corpus or field data.

The GP submitted at the end of the GP course and included as part of the Candidacy Portfolio package at the time of the Oral Exam must be a single-authored paper. Students and GP Directors or other collaborators are welcome to revise and expand completed GPs for co-publication, but the resulting revision or publication may not be used as a part of the Candidacy Portfolio package.

7. Implementation

This policy in its entirety will apply to PhD students enrolled in the programme as of September 2013.

Revised in Department Council and approved 16 November, 2015