

Academic Progress Policy

Doctoral students are subject to milestone requirements set forth by the Weill Cornell Graduate School (WCGS) Code of Legislation. *“51. Special Committee meetings, also known as Thesis Committee Meetings, commence once a student has completed the ACE. Such meetings must be held annually unless a shorter interval is set by the students’ Special Committee, Program, or WCGSMS. These meetings will serve to inform the Special Committee and the Program of the candidate’s progress.”* Further, as stated in the Code of Legislation, *“The maximum number of years allowed, between first registration and completion of requirements for a degree, are as follows: • PhD: 7 years.”*

At the December 12, 2023, WCGS Executive Committee (EC) meeting, the EC voted to approve an increase in the frequency of the mandatory Special/Thesis Committee Meeting. The EC approved the requirement that students in their fifth year (G5) and beyond must meet with their Special/Thesis Committee twice/year through their degree completion. This represents a change from annual to semiannual Committee Meetings. The rationale for this change is to assist doctoral students in establishing key milestones at an early stage of their dissertation research and facilitate timely completion of the doctoral degree.

The EC also voted to approve that **all third year (G3) students and beyond** submit a 2-page progress report to Committee Members **7 days (1 week)** prior to the Committee Meeting. This progress report must be part of the student’s academic record and be uploaded to the academic portfolio. Immediately after the meeting, the signed Committee Meeting report must be uploaded to the student’s academic portfolio. This will serve to track research progress and assist both the student and the Committee.