

### **M&O Department PhD Program Policy on Sixth Years**

The M&O Department's doctoral program is nominally a five year program. The normative expectation in our department is that students "go on the job market" during their fifth year in the PhD program and that they defend their dissertations and graduate from the program by the end of their fifth year. The M&O department does not provide graduate assistantship funding beyond the student's fifth year.

Our department aims to place its students in the top research universities in the world, but recognizes that students' career decisions and graduation timing involve many personal and professional factors. In the event that a student decides to stay in the M&O doctoral program for a sixth year, regardless of the reason, the student's advisor and/or the department chair will consult with the faculty and hold an informational discussion of the case. Although the sixth year will not be supported by a formal assistantship, the student may seek opportunities (e.g., teaching courses) from the department as a means of financial support, depending on the demonstrated skills and record of the student in question.