

French Department Graduate Program Advising Guidelines

Each entering graduate student is assigned a faculty adviser according to their mutual areas of interest. The rapport with the faculty adviser is usually an informal one, designed to support the student in the early years of study; the adviser consults with the student about choice of courses and is available for mentoring and guidance. Meanwhile, the DGS also meets with all first and second year students at the beginning of each semester to discuss course selection and formal program requirements; the DGS has final authority in approving each student's schedule. No faculty member will be assigned more than two or three advisees from among students in their first two years. Upon becoming acquainted with the Department, a student may decide to change advisers, with the consent of the new adviser. The dissertation director (or co-directors) eventually replaces the adviser.

Graduate students should bear in mind that the principal dissertation adviser will not be their only adviser during their graduate training, and that collaborative advising and mentoring is welcomed and supported in the Department. Beginning with coursework during the first two years and extending into the process of completing the Oral Qualifying Examination, there will be many opportunities for students to build relationships with faculty members based on shared research interests and rapport. These faculty members may serve as oral exam advisers, dissertation co-advisers, dissertation committee members, dissertation readers, professional mentors, and eventually as recommenders who will write letters for the student's job applications.

Refining the focus of dissertation research and choosing the dissertation adviser(s) is a process that will unfold organically during the first three years of study, as the student prepares for their oral exam and then begins dissertation research and writing.

The GSAS Guide to Advising Processes includes guidelines and resources to inform the process of choosing a faculty adviser:

https://gsas.yale.edu/sites/default/files/page-files/gsas_advising_processes_guide_0.pdf