

Promising practices in doctoral education

Mentoring and advising

- Provide a comprehensive student orientation (CGS, 2010; Duke, 2018)
- Ensure that there are transparent expectations on departmental websites with academic milestones (CGS, 2010; Yale, 2011)
- Provide online student resources such as handbooks, milestone tracking systems, dissertation checklists, electronic portfolios, and annual progress reports (CGS, 2010; Yale, 2011)
- Ensure that there are regular advisor/advisee meetings (CGS, 2010; Yale, 2011)
- Require annual student performance reviews (CGS, 2010; Yale, 2011)
- Create an ombuds position to support doctoral students (CGS, 2010; Duke, 2018)
- Develop faculty workshops on mentoring, including at new faculty orientation (CGS, 2010)
- Provide materials/handbooks and online resources for faculty about mentoring (CGS, 2010)
- Award mini grants for faculty to develop initiatives to improve the quality of mentoring (CGS, 2010)
- Include explicit attention to doctoral advising and mentoring in evaluation for tenure and promotion (CGS, 2010; Duke, 2018)
- Require heightened accountability for effective, student-centered advising and mentoring (Duke, 2018)
- Offer peer mentors (CGS, 2010; Duke, 2018)
- Provide external and/or supplemental mentors (CGS, 2010; Duke, 2018)

Administration and support

- Create/enhance institutional database on doctoral students (CGS, 2010; Duke, 2018)
- Track all students who leave, determine reasons for not enrolling, and ask about plans for future enrollment (CGS, 2010)
- Study data from the past ten years to assess patterns of attrition versus short-terms enrollment gaps (CGS, 2010)
- Conduct exit survey for doctoral recipients and students who do not complete doctoral work then use feedback to develop solutions to reduce attrition (CGS, 2010)
- Track and report doctoral student progress (CGS, 2010; Duke, 2018)
- Post completion figures for programs on graduate school website (CGS, 2010)
- Offer a writing assistance program (courses, workshops, and individual consultations) using trained writing coaches (CGS, 2010)

- Offer a Dissertation Retreat or a summer Dissertation Writing Residency Fellowship for students who are stalled (CGS, 2010)
- Establish a doctoral student writing room (CGS, 2010)
- Offer workshops on time management, especially for students in the final writing stages (CGS, 2010)
- Partner with graduate student organizations to offer dissertation writing workshops (CGS, 2010)
- Increase stipend levels to median of university's peer group (CGS, 2010; Duke, 2018)
- Increase stipend support for summers (CGS, 2010; Duke, 2018)
- Provide releases from assistantship duties for students at the dissertation stage (CGS, 2010)
- Provide health insurance coverage, including mental health and family coverage (CGS, 2010; Duke, 2018)
- Provide affordable housing (Duke, 2018)
- Provide support for doctoral students with families, such as affordable childcare (CGS, 2010)

Career and professional development

- Publicize the Preparing Future Faculty program (CGS, 2010)
- Offer a space for students to do micro-teaching activities, videotape themselves teaching, and engage in peer review of teaching (CGS, 2010)
- Offer professional development workshops tailored to students at the beginning, in the middle, or at dissertation stage (CGS, 2010)
- Offer a Graduate Teaching Fellowship program to provide mentored teaching experiences (CGS, 2010)
- Offer a graduate certification in college teaching (CGS, 2010)
- Provide travel funds for attending conferences (CGS, 2010)
- Provide opportunities for students to present a progress report (paper; dissertation chapter) to faculty and peers annually (Yale, 2011)
- Offer events to prepare students for job applications and interviews in the academy (CGS, 2010; Duke, 2018; Yale, 2011)
- Prepare students for careers in sectors outside the academy (CGS, 2010; Duke, 2018)
- Provide a placement team (in-field faculty, other faculty, graduate registrar) to help with job search (Yale, 2011)
- Coordinate professional development activities with individual schools, the Graduate School, and the Career Center (Duke, 2018)