

# Statement of the Rights and Responsibilities of Ph.D. Students at Johns Hopkins University

**Preamble:** Ph.D. education is fundamental to the University's teaching and research mission. For an intellectual community of scholars to flourish, it is important to acknowledge the principles that underlie the compact between Ph.D. students, the faculty, and other members of the University community.

It is in this spirit that the Doctor of Philosophy Board, in collaboration with faculty and students from across the University, has articulated a statement of rights and responsibilities for doctoral students at Johns Hopkins. The principles described in this document are to be realized in policies established by the various Schools of the University; the Schools will also develop mechanisms to monitor and enforce such policies.

## RIGHTS

1. **Ph.D. students have the right to education, supervision and training.** This includes access to the classroom, laboratory and teaching opportunities necessary for completion of degree requirements, appropriate and regular faculty supervision consistent with the norms of the discipline, as well as appropriate research and/or clinical experiences.
2. **Ph.D. students have the right to full and regular access to information about the requirements for the degree.** This includes information regarding program requirements, assignment/selection/change of advisor, expected time to completion, graduation rates, and conditions of financial support.
3. **Ph.D. students have the right to conditions of learning, teaching and research that are appropriate and reasonable for their discipline.** This includes the right to information and ongoing consultation regarding their expected effort and specific duties, as well as clearly stated criteria for participation in collaborative work and/or research.
4. **Ph.D. students have the right to be treated in a respectful and professional manner by all members of the University community.** This includes freedom from discrimination and harassment as well as assurance of reasonable confidentiality in their communications, as governed by university policy.

5. **Ph.D. students have the right to receive, on a regular basis, written evaluation of their progress and to be informed of the criteria upon which the evaluation is based.**  
Students should also be provided with opportunities to discuss such evaluations with their advisor. Each program should make available their policies concerning academic probation, funding withdrawal, and dismissal; reasonable warning should be provided in advance of dismissal based on failure to make satisfactory academic progress.
6. **Ph.D. students have the right to appropriate recognition for their contributions to research and scholarship.** This will require discussion between the student, advisor and other relevant parties regarding expectations for student contributions and the nature of the recognition.
7. **Ph.D. students have the right to academic freedom.** This includes the right to express, without reprisal, independent opinions about scholarly issues (such as opinions regarding theoretical and methodological debates in their disciplines), opinions regarding matters of institutional policy, concerns about suspected research misconduct and personal opinions on public matters.
8. **Ph.D. students have the right to have their views represented in the development of policies that govern the Ph.D.** Student ideas and perspectives should be solicited and considered if substantive changes in the structure of a Ph.D. program are anticipated.
9. **Ph.D. students have the right to clearly defined policies regarding benefits and non-academic issues pertinent to their student status.** These policies should cover (but not be limited to) such things as the provision of health care, recognition of family responsibilities, leave, vacation and other absences. These policies should acknowledge that students can, without reprisal, form clubs, associations or organizations around common interests, as long as these are consistent with general non-discrimination policies of the University.
10. **Ph.D. students have the right to accessible procedures for redress of their grievances.** Each School within the University must provide mechanisms to ensure that grievance procedures are fair and without reprisal. These procedures should include Ph.D. student representation, as appropriate.

## RESPONSIBILITIES

1. **Ph.D. students have the responsibility to inform themselves of the requirements of their programs.**
2. **Ph.D. students have the responsibility to dedicate appropriate effort and time to meeting the requirements of their programs.**
3. **Ph.D. students have the responsibility to uphold the ethical responsibilities of their profession and discipline.** This includes honesty in academic coursework and scholarship, integrity in the use of grant and fellowship funds, and the upholding of ethical norms in the conduct and reporting of research methods and results.
4. **Ph.D. students have the responsibility to treat all members of the University community in a respectful and professional manner.**
5. **Ph.D. students have the responsibility to contribute to the intellectual life of the University and to the advancement of education and scholarship.**
6. **Ph.D. students have the responsibility to understand and fulfill their role in developing and maintaining a professional relationship with their faculty advisor(s).** This includes the responsibility for communicating regularly with advisors, maintaining a mutually agreed-upon schedule of meetings, and informing advisors of such things as: the current status of their degree work; any expected deviations from the agreed upon program of studies; and any unanticipated absences.
7. **Ph.D. students have the responsibility to recognize the contributions to their research and scholarly publications made by their advisors and other colleagues.** This will require communication and consultation with these individuals about the nature of the recognition.
8. **Ph.D. students have the responsibility to fulfill their teaching, research and/or clinical commitments and duties in a responsible manner.** This includes the responsibility to inform themselves of the requirements of these positions, to maintain the established ethical standards of interaction with students, faculty, patients and/or research participants, and to respect the privacy of information shared with them.
9. **Ph.D. students have the responsibility for the appropriate use of university resources and equipment.**
10. **Ph.D. Students have the responsibility to abide by the established rules and policies of their program, school and the University.**