

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY BOARD PhD PROGRAM REVIEW PROTOCOL

Overview of the Doctor of Philosophy Board

The Doctor of Philosophy Board (DPB) is a standing committee of the Johns Hopkins University that reports to the Provost and is responsible to the graduate faculty of schools granting the Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree. It is composed of faculty from PhD granting schools as described in its [bylaws](#).

Beyond the statutory responsibility for approving the awarding of degrees on behalf of the Trustees, the DPB reports to the Provost and to the PhD granting schools on the status of the PhD programs and tracks changing academic philosophies and emerging technologies that affect PhD studies. The DPB also provides advice regarding University-wide PhD degree requirements and on policy matters related to the well-being of doctoral education generally. To do so, the DPB has developed a framework for existing doctoral program reviews that leverages interdivisional PhD program review in order to identify and share best practices.

Overview of PhD Program Review

Periodic review institutionalizes the process of analysis and planning for PhD programs. Typically, PhD programs are reviewed every 5-7 years in coordination with the division's program review cycle. The review provides a means of benchmarking both within the University and against outside peer programs. Inherent in the process is the opportunity for self-study, reflection, and the challenge to improve. Findings from the review may also help the program justify requests to School/University administrators for additional support and delineate their longer-range plans.

The Deans and the Provost should ensure that these reviews are routinely completed. The Provost's office should collaborate with Schools and Departments to ensure that these reviews are coordinated with ongoing program reviews. In situations where a doctoral program is not part of a routine School or Department review, the DPB should determine a time for that program to be reviewed.

Following the protocol depicted in Appendix A, the program collects, verifies, and reviews quantitative data (e.g., admissions data, attrition and time to degree) and qualitative input (e.g., placement data, student attitudes) and produces a self-study. The Review Protocol and Resource Document provide the program with a framework for faculty reflection on successes, challenges and opportunities. Feedback from the Provost, based upon advice of the DPB, provides programs with an overview of the program's strengths, areas for improvement, and any required action.

The DPB serves as the review body that advises the Provost regarding each program's strengths, areas of improvement, and needs based upon discussion of the data and information provided in the self-study. Upon receipt of advice in the form of a written report from the DPB, the Provost provides timely written feedback to the respective Dean and Vice Dean, copying the Department Chair and Graduate Program Director. After review of feedback, the program is encouraged to provide the Provost with a written response, including an action plan to address any significant concerns highlighted during the review.

APPENDIX A: PROTOCOL FOR DPB PhD PROGRAM REVIEW

