

Role of the Interim Supervisor/Advisor at AU

The interim supervisor is identified by the Academic Unit, graduate program designate, or may be selected by a student upon admission to the doctoral program based on common research interests or other factors. The position of interim supervisor/advisor should exist no longer than the first two years after the student has begun the program. The interim supervisor/advisor may or may not become the student's thesis/dissertation supervisor/advisor or a member of the student's supervisory committee.

The overall purpose of the interim supervisor's role is to assist the student in his or her adjustment to the graduate program and its expectations, act as a mentor, and provide advisement regarding program requirements and progress in the program until the supervisor/advisor is selected. More specifically, the interim supervisor would:

- Confirm a time frame with the student for completion of the degree requirements
- Advise and guide the student on his or her program of study
- Approve changes to the student's course of study with a recommendation that would be forwarded to the graduate program designate and the FGS, such as requests for leaves
- Act as a resource person or advisor to the student until such time as the student acquires a supervisor/advisor (pertaining to awards, scholarships, conferences, research ideas, ideas for committee members)
- In conjunction with the graduate program designate and the fgs, ensure the student meets faculty requirements and university regulations, or petitions in a timely manner for their waiver
- Meet with the student on a regular basis to monitor progress (complete the annual progress report with the student) until this responsibility is assumed by the supervisor/advisor
- Assist in identifying research and funding opportunities and assist the student in the application process