PhD Clock

Defn: Each student's clock is the number of months that they have completed in their current program, e.g., their PhD.

The PhD clock does **NOT** include:

- Time in MSc.
- Time the student is on leave.
Student-Years provides a rough measure of cost to both students and faculty. View above is per-entrant. Alternatively, a snapshot of current students would show a larger fraction of long-term students.

Within 6 years roughly:
- 25% have withdrawn,
- 15% remain,
- 60% have completed their degree.
Some stay 8-10 years (SGS limit is 10).
A Possible Direction?

- Put emphasis on the timing of PhD committee meetings, rather than on a particular product, such as a “depth document”.

- Regular deadlines for committee meetings at $16+12^k$ months, $k = 0, 1, ..., 8$. (One limited-term extension can be applied for.)

- Purpose of committee meetings:
  * Review the student’s research progress in the last year;
  * Provide feedback and direction for the next year;
  * Provide marks (A+ to F) for progress since last meeting (or surpasses/achieves/doesn’t achieve expectations).

- Missing a deadline or failing a committee meeting has substantial, typically graded, consequences (e.g., loss of “good academic standing”, funding, or program registration).