Requirements for the second year paper

The goal of the second-year paper is to introduce students to conducting research and writing a paper. The paper should be a working paper containing original research, or at least some elements of it, ideally at or above the level of the third chapter of a PhD dissertation. That is, the paper should contain an original idea—which could be also an extension of existing work—as well as execution of that original idea. Literature reviews, replications of existing work on the same dataset, and research proposals outlining an idea but not conducting analysis, do not qualify. The second-year paper should also look formally like a working paper: it should have an abstract, an introduction stating the original contribution and placing it in the context of the literature, subsequent sections describing the analysis, conclusion, references, appendices if needed, and appropriate figures and tables. Based on these guidelines the student's adviser evaluates the second-year paper on a pass/fail basis. The paper is due by March 31 of the second year of studies. The advisor should prepare a short report on the paper for the PhD Committee outlining the reasons for his/her decision. In the case of a pass, this should outline the improvements needed to be at the level of a CEU-Economics publishable working paper. In the case of a fail outcome the report should outline a roadmap on how to get the paper to acceptable standards. This should take no more than an additional 6 months.

If the paper is judged unsatisfactory by the Advisor for the 2nd time, the PhD Committee will review it and if it supports the Advisors opinion, the candidacy of the PhD student will be terminated.

Students who have a heavier course work load can apply for an extension of the deadline to September 30 of their 3rd year of studies. Request for this extension must be submitted to the PhD Committee any time during the first year of PhD candidacy.