Graduate Academic Eligibility

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Graduate probation and retention standards

All graduate students, including those in non-degree study, are expected to meet and maintain the academic standards below.

Good standing

1. Students admitted unconditionally who maintain at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA will be in good standing.
2. Students admitted on probation who achieve and maintain at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA upon completion of nine graduate credits\(^1\) will be in good standing.
3. Students who have been on probation and subsequently achieve and maintain at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA will be returned to good standing.
4. Programs may have more prescriptive policies including requirements for appropriate professional or clinical conduct, for sufficiency in professional skills, or other requirements that must be clearly documented in their program guidelines and provided to students upon admission. For a list of programs with such policies students are encouraged to consult the Office of Graduate Studies.

Probation

1. Students admitted unconditionally who have a cumulative GPA less than 3.00 upon completion of nine graduate credits, or any time after, will be placed on probation. Such students must raise their cumulative GPA to at least 3.00 within the next nine credits or two terms (whichever comes first) in order to continue in graduate study.
2. Students admitted on probation must have at least a 3.00 cumulative GPA after completing nine graduate credits in order to continue in graduate study.
3. Students who have been on probation and subsequently removed from probation will be returned to probationary status if their cumulative GPA falls below 3.00. Such students must raise their cumulative GPA to at least 3.00 within the next nine credits or two terms (whichever comes first) in order to continue in graduate study.
4. Programs may have more prescriptive policies and other conditions that could trigger probation (see #4 under “Good Standing” above).

Dismissal

1. Students admitted unconditionally, who subsequently were placed on probation, will be dismissed from graduate study if their cumulative GPA is below 3.00 after completing nine graduate credits or two terms (whichever comes first) while on probation.
2. Students admitted on probation will be dismissed from graduate study if their cumulative GPA is below 3.00 after completing nine graduate credits.
3. Students will be dismissed from graduate study if their semester GPA is less than 3.00 at any time while on probation after completing the initial nine credits.
4. Students who earn a “D” or “F” in a graduate course will be dismissed from graduate study.
5. Programs may have more prescriptive policies and other conditions that could trigger dismissal (see #4 under “Good Standing” above).

Graduate credits are defined as course credit offered at the 500-level or above, or any course accepted as part of the requirements for a graduate degree.

Readmission to a program after dismissal

A student who has been dismissed from their graduate program may request readmission by making an appeal to his or her graduate program. The student should also consult with his/her program director and/or the Office of the University Graduate Studies for advice and help with how to proceed.

If the student’s program finds compelling evidence to warrant an exception to the policy, one can be granted upon written notification to the Office of University Graduate Studies, the office of the dean of the college that houses the program, and to the Office of Records and Registration. Students granted an exception are readmitted to the graduate program, though readmission can result in a student being placed on probation.

If the program is unwilling to support readmission, the student should again consult the Office of University Graduate Studies to discuss the possibilities for any further action.

Appeals process for graduate students not re-admitted by graduate programs

1. The decision of a graduate program on readmission of a student that has been dismissed is considered to be final.
2. If a student feels that their graduate program did not follow its written procedures in not supporting his or her request for readmission, that student may appeal to Graduate Council for a hearing on due process.
   a. The Graduate Council will only consider due process appeals (i.e., cases where a graduate program is thought to have acted contrary to its written procedures), and does not consider any other evidence for exceptions to the dismissal policies of a graduate program.
   b. For the purposes of due process appeal, a graduate program is assumed to use the standards of the graduate catalog for probation or dismissal, unless the program has additional prescriptive policies documented in their program guidelines, bylaws, or other equivalent documents that supersede those of the catalog. Such documents should be available to students in the program and on-file in the office of the dean of the college for that graduate program, and provided to the Graduate Council prior to any due process appeal.
   c. If the Graduate Council finds that a program’s decision was inconsistent with that program’s written procedures, then the program must reconsider the request for readmission and base a new decision on the program’s written procedures.
   d. If the program’s decision is deemed by Graduate Council to be consistent with written procedures, then that program’s decision remains final.
3. Students who have been dismissed from a graduate program can apply to the Office of Graduate Studies for “special non-degree
status” or seek admission to another graduate program. However, being accepted to special non-degree status or to another graduate program after dismissal is rare and should not be expected.

4. Students who are not accepted for special non-degree status or accepted to another program are dismissed from the university.

The Graduate Council

Duties and responsibilities of the committee shall include:

1. Establishing, in consultation with departments and/or colleges, academic standards pertaining to graduate study, including policies for graduate student admission, honors recognition, retention, probation, dismissal, and readmission.

2. Determining the procedures and criteria for selecting members of the graduate faculty and annually approving an updated roster of members of the graduate faculty.

3. Formulating procedures for hearing graduate student appeals and petitions on academic policy matters not resolved by administrative offices of the university.

4. Studying long-range issues related to any aspect of graduate studies and recommending how and by whom these issues should be addressed.

5. Graduate Council also has oversight for the following policies:

- Time limit for degree completion.
- Program exceptions for English proficiency requirements.
- Requirements for graduate assistantships.
- Graduate probation and retention. (Graduate Council hears as a due process appeal.)
- Continuous registration.
- Medical withdrawal from courses/university.

Membership of the committee shall consist of nine graduate faculty. The faculty membership shall include at least one representative from each of the College of Science and Health, the College of Business Administration, and the College of Liberal Studies. At least one representative from each college shall be either a graduate program director (having no additional administrative responsibilities) or a member of a department participating in a graduate program. In addition, the Director of Graduate Studies, the Chair of the Graduate Curriculum Committee and two graduate students shall serve as members. The academic deans or their designated appointees, and the Registrar shall serve as administrative consultants to the committee. The committee shall elect its chairperson. The Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs shall serve as convener.