

APPROVED BY SENATE
04/22/2019



Proposal to the Senate Educational Policy Committee

PROPOSAL TITLE: Revision to Academic Standing Based on Semester GPA for Graduate students (revision to Student Code section on Computation of Scholastic Averages for Graduate Students).

SPONSOR: Allison McKinney, Senior Director, Academic Affairs, Graduate College (agrindly@illinois.edu)

COLLEGE CONTACT: John C. Hart, Executive Associate Dean, Graduate College (jch@illinois.edu)

BRIEF DESCRIPTION: This proposal seeks to revise the policy for good standing for graduate students based on GPA to include semester GPA as well as cumulative graduate GPA.

JUSTIFICATION: A working group, including members of the Graduate College Executive

Committee, has been examining the ways we monitor and communicate student progress and standing to graduate students and departments. As part of this review, we have identified that the current system of monitoring academic standing based on cumulative GPAs will miss circumstances when students have very low grades for a semester or two but their cumulative GPAs remain above the cumulative GPA minimum. Including semester GPA in the review of academic standing provides an opportunity for earlier awareness and intervention when a student is experiencing academic difficulty in order to help the student return to a successful academic trajectory.

The Graduate College has been aware of several situations where a student had one or two semesters of very low grades without any impact on their academic standing because their cumulative GPA remained above the minimum.

The current policy requires that graduate students have a cumulative GPA of at least the department's minimum to be in good standing. We propose adding a requirement that graduate students must have a semester GPA of at least 2.75 in order to be in good standing. We have also added clarification that a student who has no cumulative GPA after a fall or spring semester will be placed on academic probation.

The Graduate College Executive Committee has discussed and approved this policy change.

BUDGETARY AND STAFF IMPLICATIONS: *(Please respond to each of the following questions.)*

1) Resources

- a. How does the unit intend to financially support this proposal? **N/A**
 - b. How will the unit create capacity or surplus to appropriately resource this program? If applicable, what functions or programs will the unit no longer support to create capacity?
 - c. Will the unit need to seek campus or other external resources? If so, please provide a summary of the sources and an indication of the approved support.
 - d. Please provide a letter of acknowledgment from the college that outlines the financial arrangements for the proposed program.
- 2) Resource Implications
- a. Please address the impact on faculty resources including the changes in numbers of faculty, class size, teaching loads, student-faculty ratios, etc. **none**
 - b. Please address the impact on course enrollment in other units and provide an explanation of discussions with representatives of those units. **none**
 - c. Please address the impact on the University Library **none**
 - d. Please address the impact on technology and space (e.g. computer use, laboratory use, equipment, etc.) **none**

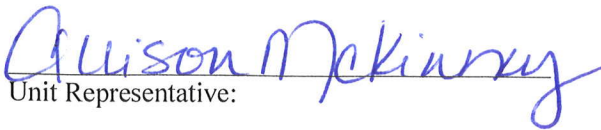
DESIRED EFFECTIVE DATE: Fall 2019

STATEMENT FOR PROGRAMS OF STUDY CATALOG:

Policy revision will appear in the Graduate College Handbook and the Student Code. See Appendix A.

CLEARANCES: (Clearances should include signatures and dates of approval. **These signatures must appear on a separate sheet.** If multiple departments or colleges are sponsoring the proposal, please add the appropriate signature lines below.)

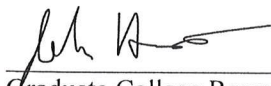
Signatures:


Unit Representative:

3/22/19
Date:

College Representative:

Date:


Graduate College Representative:

3/21/19
Date:

Council on Teacher Education Representative:

Date:

Appendix A:

Graduate College Handbook

Students placed on probation have one semester to improve their standing to Full Standing, or will be dismissed from the Graduate College. A student who has a cumulative graduate GPA below the degree program's minimum **and/or a semester GPA below 2.75** at the end of any semester of enrollment will be placed on Graduate College probation. **A student who has no cumulative graduate GPA recorded at the end of a fall or spring semester will be placed on probation.** Once a student has been placed on probation, the student must raise the cumulative GPA to his/her program's minimum by the end of the next semester of enrollment **and must earn a semester GPA of at least 2.75 in the next semester of enrollment**, or face dismissal from the Graduate College.

Student Code

§ 3-103 COMPUTATION OF SCHOLASTIC AVERAGES

c. Graduates

The graduate GPA includes all hours and grades for all courses taken while enrolled as a graduate student. The GPA component of academic status is calculated at the end of each semester. At the point of calculation, graduate students must have a cumulative graduate GPA at or above their department's minimum **and a semester GPA of at least 2.75** to be in good standing. To be eligible for an advanced degree, a graduate student must have a grade-point average of at least 2.75. Some departments require a higher average. See the Graduate College Handbook for Students, Faculty and Staff for more information about repeated courses and grade points used in computations.

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic
Affairs

Swanlund Administration Building
601 East John Street
Champaign, IL 61820



March 26, 2019

Gay Miller, Chair
Senate Committee on Educational Policy
Office of the Senate
228 English Building, MC-461

Dear Professor Miller:

Enclosed is a proposal from the Graduate College to revise the language in the *Student Code* on
Computation of Scholastic Averages for Graduate Students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn A. Martensen'.

Kathryn A. Martensen
Assistant Provost

Enclosures

c: J. Hart
A. McKinney

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Graduate College

110 Coble Hall
801 South Wright Street
Champaign, IL 61820-6210



Executive Committee

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Dean & Chair
Graduate College

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Graduate Student, Mechanical
Science & Engineering

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Education

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Katie Ranard
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Animal Sciences

Sela Sar
Advertising

Mark Steinberg
History

Terri Weissman
Art & Design

March 21, 2019

Kathy Martensen
Office of the Provost

Dear Kathy,

Included is a proposal from the Graduate College to revise the language in the Student Code on Computation of Scholastic Averages for Graduate Students.

The proposal was reviewed and approved at the Graduate College Executive Committee meeting on March 12, 2019 as a part of additional policy revisions for the Graduate College handbook. This particular policy language also exists in the Student Code, which is the purpose for this proposal.

Sincerely,

John C. Hart
Executive Associate Dean
Graduate College