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UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN SENATE
COMMITTEE ON EDUCATIONAL POLICY
(Final; Information)

EP.23.014 Report to Clarify Graduate College Policy Updates for AY 22-23

Background

In an April 2022 meeting of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy, the Committee listened to verbal updates of changes to Graduate College policies which were to take effect in AY23. These policy changes were subsequently emailed to campus on May 18, 2022 by the Graduate College. Over the summer a senator emailed the Chair of the Senate Committee on Educational Policy for more information about the policy changes. The Chair asked the Graduate College for a written overview of the policy changes. In response, and in the spirit of having a written record, this report includes the Graduate College policy changes, the reasons behind them, and when they were approved by the Graduate College Executive Committee. The Chair also asked if any units on campus had reached out to the Graduate College in response to any of the policy changes. As of mid-October, the Graduate College has received no inquiries or responses on the policy changes.

Graduate College Policy Updates for AY 22-23

Revision of the signature policy for doctoral exam forms

Approved by the Graduate College Executive Committee on February 3, 2022

This revision was proposed as a result of process changes during the pandemic that were determined to be very useful. The revision allows for more flexibility for how we collect signatures for doctoral exam result forms. During the pandemic, we accepted an email from the committee chair (with all committee members copied) indicating the date of the exam, the result, how each committee member voted, and (for TDA forms) that the dissertation is ready for Graduate College review. This email was appended to the form, which was signed by the Executive Officer or Director of Graduate Studies. Alternatively, departments could submit the form with an attached Adobe audit report to confirm the signatures. This process ended up working out very well, and we had fewer issues with illegible forms. Departments were able to submit the results much more quickly, which allowed us to process the results and add them to the student's record with little delay.

Revision of the academic minimum requirements for graduate admission

Approved by the Graduate College Executive Committee on April 4, 2022

This revision adds additional criteria to be considered for full status admission in the event that an applicant's undergraduate GPA does not meet the standard 3.0 admission requirement. The criteria includes:

- may qualify for full status admission based on a master's degree from a regionally accredited college in the United States or a comparable graduate degree from a recognized institution of higher learning abroad with an acceptable cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0 (A=4.0), or comparable GPA for an international applicant.
- may qualify for full status admission after completion of a minimum of 12 credit hours as a non-degree student at the graduate level within the proposed academic major at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and received a cumulative GPA that meets the department minimum for good standing.
- may qualify for full status admission with support from the academic program and approval from the Graduate College if they have completed 10+ years of professional work experience in the field corresponding to the proposed academic major.

The proposal also includes a procedural update to allow limited status admission for applicants with a GPA of 2.75-2.99 to be admitted without a letter of justification.

Revision of the English proficiency policy for graduate admission

Approved by the Graduate College Executive Committee on April 4, 2022

This revision removes the English proficiency requirement for all domestic applicants (for example, Puerto Rico). It also updates the list of countries that are recognized as having English as a primary language.

Revision to the GC 599 registration option

Approved by the Graduate College Executive Committee on April 4, 2022

This revision removes the fee waiver portion of the GC 599 registration option. Students would be assessed normal campus fees associated with zero-hour enrollment.

The Student Code does permit campus fee waivers for students approved for in absentia registration; however, the GC 599 policy is not designed to waive campus fees, but rather allow a student to be registered for 0 hours, yet maintain full-time status to keep their student loans in deferral. Students would be able to request both GC 599 and in absentia registration options if applicable.

Revision to the Graduate College Policy for Transfer Credit

Approved by the Graduate College Executive Committee on April 4, 2022

The current transfer credit policy is written in a way that categorizes non-degree graduate level credit taken on this campus as “outside the Graduate College.” This revision organizes the types of transfer credit into two categories: Outside the Institution and University of Illinois Graduate-level credit. The revision also updates the allowable grades to transfer to include courses with a “S/U” grading mode.

Transfer credit from Outside the Institution remains limited to 12 hours with grades of B or better, or a Satisfactory grade in the case of a Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory grading mode.

Transferring credit between programs within the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign includes:

- Credit taken while enrolled as a UIUC undergraduate student
- Credit taken while enrolled as a UIUC non-degree student
- Credit earned while enrolled in different graduate program
- BTAA Traveling Scholar Program credits

As all of the above is University of Illinois credit, there are no limit on the number of hours that students may transfer within the university and no grade minimums required by the Graduate College (some departments may have grade minimums) as long as the credit was not previously applied towards another degree and both departments/units involved approve of the transfer.

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