



The University of Tennessee Health Science Center College of Graduate Health Sciences College Policies

Document Name: Academic Progress
Effective Date: November 8, 2004
Document Status: Approved

Purpose

This policy describes the requirements for academic progress.

Policy Details

The minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) needed for successful progress is established and communicated to the student in writing by each program. This GPA level may be higher, but no lower, than 3.0, which is the standard of the College. If, after 18 semester hours of regular class work, a student's cumulative GPA falls below the minimum, or if, in the view of the student's Faculty Committee, the student is not making adequate progress, including research, the student's Faculty Committee (or the program's Graduate Studies Committee, or equivalent, if a Faculty Committee has not yet been formed) will review the case.

Should the Faculty Committee (or equivalent) find a deficiency in the student's progress, the Committee will submit a recommendation to the Program Chair or Program Director for resolution of the deficiency or dismissal. After review by the Program Chair or Director, the recommendation will be communicated to the Dean for review. After consideration of the recommendation and other factors relevant to the student's progress, the Dean will decide whether to allow the student to continue in the program.

Subjective appraisal by the faculty of the student's progress and potential may be considered. Other attributes, such as those concerned with the level of professionalism expected of a student in a particular discipline, may also be considered. Academic improvement over the course of study may be considered when evaluating the GPA. Recognizing that some students will not initially be accustomed to the rigors of a biomedical discipline, especially in short programs, students whose GPA falls between 2.90-2.99 will be evaluated as to their fitness for the degree by a committee that includes the student's Faculty Committee and the CGHS Associate Dean for Student Affairs and Recruitment. The Dean will then consider the recommendation of that group as to whether a waiver of the GPA



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requirement will be granted. The Dean's decision is final for their evaluation of the recommendation.

If a plan for resolution of the GPA deficiency is accepted, the student will be placed on academic probation and will have one total academic year (two terms) to resolve the deficiency, unless the Program Director and Faculty Committee make a recommendation to the Dean otherwise. If after two terms the GPA remains below 3.0, the Dean will decide whether the student will be ~~dismissed~~ allowed to continue. Dismissal of a student is subject to the College and University policies.

Policy Scope

Applies to all enrolled students.

Related Policies

Academic Appeals
Faculty Committee
Grading

Definitions

Dean. The administrative head of the College, which may be an Associate Dean substituting during an absence of the Dean.

Faculty Committee. The appointed and approved committee that oversees a student's progress and certifies the student's completion of degree requirements, as outlined in the "Faculty Committee" policy.

Grade Point Average. The calculated value of the sum of the quality points earned for a course multiplied by the credit hours for the course, divided by the sum of credit hours for courses in which quality points are assigned.

Graduate Studies Committee. A committee existing at the academic program level that makes decisions or recommendations for the program. This committee also may serve the role of an Admissions Committee, and may substitute for the



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student's Faculty Committee prior to the appointment and approval of the Faculty Committee.

Program Chair. The listed chair of the student's academic program.

Program Director. The listed director of the student's academic program.

Terms. The Fall and Spring terms defined by the academic calendar.

Procedures

1. The record of a student deemed not to be making adequate progress is reviewed at the program level.
2. A recommendation is made to the Program Director or Chair and communicated to the Dean.
3. Following review of the recommendation, the Dean will decide whether to allow the student to continue in the program.

Document History

Approved by Graduate Studies Council November 8, 2004, as "Grade Point Average Requirements".

Modified by Graduate Studies Council November 24, 2015 to include subjective measures of progress.

Modified by Graduate Studies Council May 23, 2017 to specify which committee makes the recommendation.

Modified by Graduate Studies Council September 25, 2018 to define the time limit for remediation.

Modified by Graduate Studies Council January 28, 2025 to allow for faculty determination of student mastery of material in short programs if the GPA is below 3.0