

GRADUATE SCHOOL POLICY UPDATES FOR GSC REVIEW AND DISCUSSION

“Graduate School policy is established and changed by action of the Dean of the Graduate School after consultation with the Faculty Senate and approval by the Provost and the President. Periodic updates to these policies and procedures will be made in the spring prior to the fall semester in which they will become effective. Changes required by law will be made immediately with the appropriate notification to Faculty Senate, Provost and President. **Please note:** Recommendations for changes in policy should be addressed to the Dean of the Graduate School.” (From Chapter 1, Section E. Graduate School Policy) (<http://www.gradschool.wsu.edu/CurrentStudents/PoliciesAndProcedures/Chapter1/GradSchoolPolicy.aspx>)

Summary of New Policies and Policy Clarifications for Review and Approval for Fall 2012:

1. **Chapter 1, Clarification of committee membership; guidance for bylaws**—Clarified that, regardless of a program’s bylaws, a master’s committee must have a minimum of one permanent tenured or tenure-track faculty and a doctoral committee must have two. All committee members must hold a graduate degree comparable to the degree sought by the student. Added: The Dean of the Graduate School has the authority to remove a faculty member from a student’s committee after consultation with the program/department chair, the college dean and the Provost when it is in the best interest of the student and the program. This language was also added in Chapter 7 and Chapter 8 under the section on Faculty Advisory Committee.
2. **Chapter 3, S/U grades for 700, 702 and 800 credits**—New policy: S/U grades replace S/F grades for research credits. Students earn credit for “S” grades, but S/U are not calculated in GPA.
3. **Chapter 4, equivalency of bachelor degrees**—WSU now requires all foreign credentials to be evaluated by a WSU-approved credential evaluation service and will accept a bachelor’s degree that the evaluation service has identified as equivalent to a U.S. bachelor’s degree. Added to the policy: The final decision about the equivalency of any bachelor degree rests with the Dean of the Graduate School.
4. **Chapter 4, Change of degree level/program or additional program for current students**—One form will be used for students who wish to change a degree level or a program. International students who change a program or degree level will need to submit updated financial verification to update their immigration paperwork. New policy: students will be allowed to pursue a master’s degree in a different discipline while in a doctoral program.
5. **Chapter 6, Minimum GPA, Termination of Enrollment, Reinstatement**—Conditions of termination were clarified (not changed). Added: A student who has earned two “U” grades is subject to dismissal. Conditions for reinstatement were added.
6. **Chapter 6, Online Program Courses**—This section was updated; specific self-sustaining courses were removed and students were advised to check the Online Programs website to determine if on-line courses are self-sustaining and not covered under tuition waivers.

7. **Chapter 6, Transfer credit for selected graduate certificates** —Added: Six graduate credits with a grade of “B” or better may be transferred toward a certificate program requiring 30 or more credits with the approval of the program and Dean of the GS. Clarification of transfer credit allowed under exception and/or special written agreement.

8. **New Posthumous degree policy for graduate students**—For program and college to recommend awarding the degree, the deceased student:
 - a. Must be in good standing at time of death;
 - b. Must be enrolled or in active status (non-thesis students should have been within one semester of completion);
 - c. Must have 80% of program requirements completed.

Policy includes the procedures for the nomination/approval process.

CLERICAL CHANGES: Clerical errors, changes to department names (i.e., Disability Resource Center to Access Center), and link updates will be made.

ACADEMIC RULE CHANGES:

- Rule 90K—U grade
- Rules 116 and 117—Updated to reflect past changes in Graduate School policy