



**Graduate School**

**GRADUATE ADVISOR'S  
HANDBOOK**

## **MISSION OF THE UNIVERSITY**

We are a student-centered research university that cultivates interconnected learning experiences to explore complex ideas and create new knowledge in a spirit of free inquiry. Guided by our commitment to diversity, equity, and service, we prepare individuals to make meaningful contributions to our campus, our community, and our world.

## **PREFACE**

This document is intended to assist the Graduate Program Advisor in providing our graduate students with the most current information concerning the policies and procedures of the Graduate School at The University of Tulsa. Many of the items emphasized in this document are selected because of problems or issues that have arisen in the past. This document is by no means comprehensive and should be supplemented by familiarization with, and use of, the current *Graduate Bulletin*. The staff of the Graduate School is also available to provide assistance at any time. Please do not hesitate to call (Extension 2336) whenever you have questions.

An online version of the Graduate Program Advisor's Handbook can be found at the TU Hub at <http://graduate.utulsa.edu/hub>.

This online version will be modified as policies, procedures, and forms are changed.



THE UNIVERSITY *of*  
**TULSA**

201 LORTON HALL

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# ACADEMIC POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

## GRADUATE STUDENT (DEFINED)

An official graduate student is one who holds a bachelor's degree (or its equivalent) or an advanced degree from an accredited institution and who is currently enrolled at The University of Tulsa Graduate School. Students enrolled in a degree program are classified as **degree-seeking**. Students who enroll in graduate courses but who have not been admitted to a specific program are classified as **non-degree seeking**, either for personal improvement or transfer credits.

## INQUIRIES AND APPLICATIONS - THE FIRST STEPS

Upon receipt of an inquiry, the Graduate School proactively works with the student to answer questions and to work towards getting the student to apply. We communicate to them via multiple modalities including email, phone call, in-person meetings, and text messages to provide information and to generate interest in a program. Studies have documented the need for typically nine contacts to move from an inquiry to an enrollment. Some of these contacts will be made by the Graduate School while other contact must be made by the department. Follow up by the department is essential.

Students are also referred to the University's website ([www.utulsa.edu](http://www.utulsa.edu)) where the student may access information online, including an application to the Graduate School, the *Graduate Bulletin*, financial aid information (including information on tuition scholarships, fellowships, and assistantships) and program specifics. The website is a key resource for graduate student recruiting, and it is critically important that it be up to date and that it invites student interest in a program.

Graduate programs are given access to a list of applicants with contact information so that the program may follow up with prospective students. If an inquiry is received directly by a program, then in addition to the program's response to the inquiry, the program should forward that inquiry to the Graduate School so that the student's information can be entered in our prospect management system for tracking and communication purposes. This system is called Slate and certain individuals within each department have been given access the system directly. The Graduate School must have this contact information so that we can help you recruit students. Even prior to a student having a completed application, copying the Graduate School on any new prospect information means that an application and other materials can be sent to the prospective student and graduate program advisors will be able to track the student's application progress through Slate.

When the Graduate School receives an application with transcripts/diplomas, references, and appropriate test scores (i.e. GRE, GMAT, and TOEFL), the application materials are released to the program department for evaluation using the online Slate system. We generally will wait for the GRE scores before forwarding the application materials to the department. For international students, we will typically wait for the GRE and English proficiency exam (TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo) scores.

- If you want to alter this procedure for your program, please call the Graduate School (extension 2336). A Graduate Program Advisor may review applications that are incomplete at any time by using the Slate system.

- For training on using the system, please contact the Director of Graduate Admissions and Enrollment Management of the Graduate School.

Prior to the beginning of classes or prior to a major deadline (such as consideration towards assistantships or immigration deadline), the Graduate School may send you applications which are still missing one or more required documents. The Graduate School does this so that departments have the opportunity to evaluate as many applications as possible and to allow you the opportunity to recruit students in whom you are interested. If the application is too incomplete to render an admission decision, you are welcome contact graduate admissions or to contact the applicant directly and request the required materials or recommend that the student defer until the next available term.

If the program's practice is that each application is evaluated individually, the recommendation should be made within **two weeks** of the application materials being released for review. In some exceptionally competitive programs, applications may be considered in a pool; these applications are reviewed after a particular date. **If a graduate program is reviewing applications as a pool, the Graduate School must be notified in June of the planned deadline for evaluation of the applicant pool.** When the program's evaluation is completed, a recommendation is made within the Slate system and the Graduate School will then proceed with finalizing the file. After the Dean of the Graduate School or Associate Dean of the Graduate School has reviewed the program's recommendation and made the admission decision, a letter is sent from the Graduate School informing the applicant of the application decision.

In the event that a program receives an application or application materials directly, the program should send that information directly to the Graduate School for inclusion in the applicant's file. If there is any question on the part of the program regarding the completeness of the application or its ability to accept the applicant immediately, contact graduate admissions.

Occasionally, the Graduate School contacts the Graduate Program Advisor for further justification of the program's recommendation. The recommendation is again reviewed by the Dean or the Associate Dean of the Graduate School, and a final decision regarding admission is then rendered. Below are elements of an application that should be considered when making a recommendation to the Graduate School.

### **Issues to Consider When Reviewing an Application:**

At The University of Tulsa, we use multiple criteria in making all admission decisions. Multiple criteria are used in determining the admission of a student; hence multiple criteria should be used to deny admission of a student. An advisor's recommendation to accept or deny a student must be justified.

The following is a list of required documentation that must be submitted with the application, and these items may be used to form a recommendation to the Graduate School.

1. Transcripts
2. Standardized (GRE or GMAT) test scores, if required
3. Letters of recommendation
4. Statement of Purpose
5. TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo score for international students

Most faculty will agree that characteristics such as integrity, initiative, motivation, persistence, dedication, and resilience are critical to a student's success in graduate school. Of course, intellectual ability and adequate preparation for a graduate curriculum must be present so that discipline-specific knowledge may be conveyed to, and retained by, the student.

When evaluating an application, an advisor can more easily document intellectual ability and academic preparation with the applicant's transcripts and standardized test scores. The other characteristics that determine if a student will be successful are harder to document; evidence

may be found in the letters of recommendation, transcripts, and the Statement of Purpose. Evaluation of the applicant's academic record, illustrated by the transcripts, is not only for grades (reflecting intellectual ability and academic preparation), but it may also illustrate the applicant's desire to challenge themselves with advanced courses that are electives, involvement with research or improvements in the academic record in the last 60 hours of the degree program. The applicant may have received awards or honors for scholarship. These traits in the applicant's academic record, combined with their Statement of Purpose in pursuing a graduate education, are more indicative of a student's potential success in graduate school than an isolated standardized test score.

## ADMISSION

Admission to the Graduate School may be unconditional, provisional, or probational. The admission letter is essentially our contract with the student. Hence, any conditions of admission must have associated deadlines noted in the letter of admission.

### Admission to a Degree Program:

**Unconditional Admission:** An email is sent to the student notifying them that they have a decision to view in their Slate Status Portal. The **official** admission letter is digital, but students can print a PDF of the letter for their records. An admissions decision is made if an applicant has satisfied all of the admission requirements of the Graduate School and unconditional admission has been recommended by the Graduate Program Advisor and the Graduate School. The following items are usually required for official admittance:

1. Completed application
2. \$60 Application Fee, which is waived for The University of Tulsa alumni and employees
3. Official transcripts/diplomas
4. Two (2) letters of reference
5. Official GRE, GMAT or other test scores, if required

For international students, the following items are also required:

1. Official TOEFL, IELTS, or Duolingo score (if English is not their primary language)
2. Official Confirmation of Financial Resources (CFR)
3. Copy of passport

**Provisional Admission:** A student is admitted on a **provisional** or conditional basis when there is evidence of a high probability of success in a program, but not all of the requirements for official admission have been met (i.e., the student may need to complete undergraduate deficiencies, submit satisfactory test scores, submit official transcripts, or must complete a Bachelor's degree). For international students, they may also need to submit an official English proficiency exam score or CFR form.

Any conditions of admission recommended by the Graduate Program Advisor must be noted on the Review Form in Slate. The Graduate School will specify any requirements for the student in the admission letter. For example, if the student has undergraduate deficiencies, a complete list of those required courses, including department code and number, should be provided. In addition, a timeline for completion of these courses should be provided. If a lab is attached to a course, the Graduate School will automatically assume that the lab is also required.

If there are many deficiencies, the advisor may wish to also add that a minimum 3.0 cumulative GPA in these deficiencies is required for continuation in the program. If the individual is a **second- semester senior** (undergraduate), he/she may be admitted "pending



satisfactory completion of a bachelor's degree" (see the "Admission" section of the *Graduate Bulletin*). Any grade point requirements for deficiency course work must be noted in the program's recommendation. This will be incorporated into the admission letter if the applicant is approved for admission by the Associate Dean of the Graduate School.

**Probational Admission:** Prospective students that have a cumulative grade point average below a 3.0 or marginal test scores may be admitted on **Probation** and must establish a "B" average in the first nine hours of graduate work and within a specified time period. If the student does not meet these requirements, the student may be dismissed from the Graduate School. If there is any question about the prospective student's ability to complete the academic program, the advisor should recommend either deferral or denial. (Please refer to the explanations provided below.)

### **Deferral of Admission:**

Students may request deferral of admission if they have started an application and need to change their desired entry term, or they have been admitted and need to postpone their admission. Admitted students who have enrolled in courses are no longer eligible for deferral.

### **Denial of Admission:**

Letters of **denial** are sent when the prospective student is considered to lack the necessary aptitude to successfully complete the program, if the applicant is not competitive within a normal application pool, or the applicant's area of interest does not match the program.

Students who are denied by a discipline as degree-seeking may be admitted to the Graduate School under "Non-Degree Seeking" status if approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

NOTE: No applicant should be denied admission to the Graduate School based solely on a low GRE score. Multiple criteria should be used in evaluating prospective students for admission, including GPA scores, curriculum content, letters of recommendation, the Statement of Purpose, etc. Should an applicant choose to pursue legal recourse after having been denied admission to the Graduate School based solely on the GRE score, the Educational Testing Service, which administers these examinations, will not support the University's decision to deny the student based solely on their GRE score. Also, Graduate Program Advisors should only look at GRE sub-scores individually and are strongly discouraged from attempting to aggregate GRE sub-scores, since each sub-score is scaled differently.

### **Requests Concerning Denials:**

It is not the practice of the Graduate School to explain to prospects why they were not admitted. Responding with specifics can too easily lead to an argument over the facts or the importance of the facts and this is generally not useful. If you receive a request for an explanation of the decision to deny admission, you may forward this to Graduate School and we will reply to the prospect. In it, we will say that "we make admission decisions based on multiple criteria and we are sorry that you were not among those selected for admission." You may also use this phrase if you wish to respond directly to the prospect.

Occasionally, a prospect will supply new documents or information which may affect your view of the prospect as a potential graduate student in your program. You are encouraged to follow up on this as appropriate. The Graduate School will assist you if you choose to reconsider a prospect for admission.

### **Accepting International Students:**

When a department reviews the application file for an international student, several items are distinctly different from a domestic application. Graduate admissions is evaluating international transcripts and converting their GPA to the 4 point scale to help the faculty. If you have questions regarding the conversion of GPAs please contact the Graduate School. Remember to consult the Graduate School on international institutions if there are any questions.

As you review applications, you may notice that some international bachelor's degree programs are only three years long. Educational systems which include a 13<sup>th</sup> year of study comparable to the first year of undergraduate study in the US may be considered as having a degree comparable to a bachelor's degree in the US. Other 2 or 3-year bachelor's programs are often deficient in the area of general education. Credential evaluation companies vary in their opinion of these programs, so you may see some companies claim that an applicant has a bachelor's degree where the Graduate School has deemed it not to be so. If you disagree with the assessment of the Graduate School regarding the comparability of bachelor's degrees, please contact us and we will do more research and discuss the findings as necessary.

### **Official Documents:**

The Graduate School is the official repository of student records until the student has matriculated to The University of Tulsa. Hence, the Graduate Program Advisor may not keep the official documents in his/her files; these must be sent to the Graduate School. If the department has recommended that an applicant should be admitted, the department can access the Slate application for future reference. If you find official documents in your graduate student files, please send the originals to the Graduate School.

### **Admission as a Non-degree Seeking Student:**

Non-degree seeking students are admitted to take graduate courses for one of the following reasons: personal improvement, transfer purposes, and/or to satisfy licensing requirements. Six hours of credit taken as a non-degree seeking student may be applied towards a master's degree and twelve hours toward a doctorate, if the student is subsequently accepted into a degree program. After the student is admitted to a degree program, the Graduate Program Advisor is responsible for notifying the Graduate School if hours earned as a non-degree seeking student are being applied towards the degree.

Exceptional undergraduate students at TU who are at least junior level may apply to the Graduate School as a non-degree seeking student or to a specific graduate program. In either case once accepted to the Graduate School, undergraduate students may take graduate level courses, typically 6000- or 7000-level. Once officially admitted to a graduate program, up to six hours of graduate coursework may be applied towards a master's degree and up to 12 hours may be applied towards a doctoral degree. Students admitted with non-degree seeking status are required to get permission from the course's instructor before being officially enrolled in a course.

### **Health Insurance Policy:**

All students enrolled in one hour or more in the fall or spring semesters at The University of Tulsa are required to have health insurance coverage that pays benefits in the state of Oklahoma. Please refer all student health insurance coverage issues to the Graduate School Award and Budget Advisor.

## ENROLLMENT/ADVISING

### **Full-Time and Part-Time Status:**

To be considered academically full time, a graduate student must be enrolled in at least nine credit hours during a regular semester (fall and spring semesters). A student may enroll in up to 12 credit hours during a regular semester and nine credit hours during a summer term. However, students with full-time jobs are normally limited to a maximum of six credit hours during fall and spring semesters. For financial aid purposes, half-time enrollment is enrollment in a minimum of five credit hours during the fall, spring, and summer semesters.

Enrollment in PSY 8800 “Psychology Internship” is also considered full-time enrollment. Enrollment in zero (as is the case when enrolled in 7990 – “Final Enrollment”) to eight credit hours is acceptable for full-time status for two sequential regular semesters in a master’s program or four sequential regular semesters in a doctoral program when the student has completed at least nine credit hours per semester for the prior two sequential regular semesters, where regular semesters are fall and spring semesters. If a student does not complete his/her degree within these two reduced-credit-hour semesters for a master’s student or four reduced-credit-hour semesters for a doctoral student, the student will not have full-time status until the student has enrolled in at least nine credits per semester for two sequential regular semesters.

Enrollment in zero to eight credit hours other than as described above constitutes part-time enrollment.

### **International Student Status:**

Graduate students who are not United States residents and are attending the university on a student visa must be full-time students as required by federal regulations. The United States Customs and Immigration Service requires TU students to enroll in at least nine credit hours per semester for full-time status for student visa purposes. All international students must be enrolled prior to the first day of classes for immigration purposes.

**International students may drop below nine credit hours for two sequential regular semesters in a master’s program or four sequential regular semesters in a doctoral program, but they must complete their degree program requirements within this time, otherwise they will be out-of-status and required to leave the US.** Prior to enrolling each semester under nine credit hours, an international student must receive written approval from their program advisor and the Dean of the Graduate School. To request permission to drop below nine credit hours, international students must submit the Graduate Student Final Semester(s) Verification Form, which you can obtain from the Graduate School.

For those international students who enroll for the first time at the graduate level during the summer, full-time enrollment depends on which summer term in which they start classes. The University of Tulsa has two summer terms, each running over a period of five weeks: Summer Term I and Summer Term II. Instead of having a single summer term divided into two sessions, we have two five-week terms, each treated separately and independently for purposes of classifying students as full-time vs part-time. Under this structure, full-time status will be defined as three or more credit hours taken during a single summer term. Students who take six credit hours for graduate classes that run 10 weeks will also be classified as full-time.

After an international student has dropped below nine credit hours, enrolling in nine credit hours during the following semesters will not earn them extra time under the conditions of their student visa. Special thought must be given before approving an international student for less than nine credit hours, in case they might not be able to complete their degree program within the time limit.

### **Admission Requirements:**

During enrollment the Graduate School checks the student's records to verify that all conditions of admission have been or are being met. If the Graduate School discovers that conditions of admission are not being met, the enrollment may not be approved. It is essential, therefore, that the Graduate Program Advisor or primary research advisor check the admission conditions before approving the enrollment.

### **Timely Enrollment:**

Timely enrollment is strongly encouraged. Students who enroll the preceding semester rather than waiting until the beginning of the current semester will avoid complications encountered by students who wait until the last minute to enroll. In addition, timely enrollment ensures that graduate students obtain the courses they need and ensures that such classes are not prematurely cancelled. A decision to cancel a course for lack of enrollment may be made by the academic department because students simply have not enrolled. Students are not allowed to attend classes unless they are properly admitted and enrolled. There can also be repercussions to not enrolling early in regards to student health insurance coverage and continued access to university resources, both electronic and student services focused, such as the Alexander Health Center and Collins Fitness Center.

Graduate students who are not enrolled prior to the start of the semester may jeopardize receiving a financial award. Students receiving scholarships, fellowships, or assistantships are expected to enroll prior to the beginning of the semester. Those who enroll late may not automatically have tuition credited to their accounts or receive stipend checks in a timely fashion. This results in a series of problems, including unnecessary billing, late payment charges, and late payment of stipend checks. **Students must be enrolled during a semester they are to receive tuition or stipend awards**, except during the summer where degree seeking students may receive stipend awards without being enrolled. Enrolling during the summer does allow students to avoid paying taxes on their assistantship stipends, but summer enrollment is not required to receive a stipend. The object code for admitted graduate assistants receiving a monthly stipend is 51000, whether they are enrolled or not.

**Online Enrollment:** Graduate students should enroll online through the Student Planning system (found at <http://selfservice.utulsa.edu>) or the virtual enrollment card. Students who are not eligible to enroll in Student Planning include those who are enrolling for the first time, students who have Non-Degree Seeking status, or are enrolling in research hours or independent studies. These students will use the virtual enrollment card. If an advisor or a student has any questions as to why she/he is not eligible to enroll online, please contact the Graduate School.

Students are assigned a list of faculty advisors allowed to approve their enrollment. This list typically includes the general Graduate Program Advisor, the student's Research Advisor(s), and the Department Chair. The advisor a student will be working most closely with on enrollment will be marked as the Primary Advisor. The Graduate Program Advisor will be listed as the General Advisor and all others will be marked as minor advisors. This allows for students to have multiple faculty options in case their primary advisor is unavailable to approve their enrollment during time crunches. Only one faculty advisor has to approve the student's enrollment. If you cannot find a student on your list of advisees that you need to help with enrollment, please email [grad-enroll@utulsa.edu](mailto:grad-enroll@utulsa.edu) so that the student's record can be updated.

Instructions explaining the online enrollment process are sent out each semester before the new enrollment cycle begins. These instructions are also available in the Graduate School Hub. **Please share this information with any of your colleagues that are assisting with the enrollment process so they are aware of the procedures for each semester as well.**

Advisors remain a critical component to the enrollment process. They are expected to meet with the graduate students, consult with them concerning their progress, and advise them of the courses in which they should enroll for the next semester. But the student will be choosing their courses in Student Planning and the system will email the advisors when the schedule is ready for review. If the primary and/or processing advisor deems the schedule appropriate, each course should be marked as approved in the system and then click both review complete and advisement complete so the student can complete their registration.

If during enrollment Datatel issues a warning that the prerequisites for a course have not been met, the Graduate School overrides this warning and enrolls the student and will assume the advisor has determined that the student has satisfied all of the course prerequisites. **It is also the advisor's responsibility to ascertain whether or not the courses for which the student is enrolling are open or closed.** This becomes particularly critical near the end of the enrollment period. The Graduate School will not override closed enrollment in a course unless permission is given by the instructor.

Advisors should also check with their colleagues in other departments before requesting a student enrollment in a class outside their home program. **The Graduate School will not enroll a student in a program from another department without the written permission of the professor teaching the course. An email approval is fine in this case, but it is preferred that the Graduate School is notified of the permission BEFORE a student is cleared for enrollment as a whole.**

Important points to remember:

- 1) The earlier the advisor can meet with students, the sooner the student will be able to enroll online when the enrollment period begins.
- 2) Students need to be manually enrolled in Independent Studies, Thesis and Dissertation hours, Final Enrollment, Residency, etc. These students must submit the virtual enrollment card for those hours that require Graduate School setup.
- 3) Internships/externships and practica can be set up after advising a student by contacting the Office of the Registrar. After the course has been setup, the student can enroll for that course using the online enrollment system.
- 4) Students who are not eligible to enroll online for a particular semester need to submit the virtual enrollment card to the Graduate School in order to enroll for that semester. Students enrolling in a graduate program for the first time, as well as non-degree students, are not allowed to enroll online.

Any questions about the enrollment process for graduate students should be directed to the Graduate School.

***International Student Enrollment:*** All international students must be enrolled by the beginning of classes, otherwise they may be coded as "out-of-status" in the SEVIS database and the student may be disallowed certain benefits such as working or transferring schools. Any international student who attempts to enroll after the first week of class should be directed immediately to International Student Services.

### **Independent Study:**

When a student enrolls in an Independent Study, the Independent Study supervisor must complete the online Independent Study Title Sheet before we can enroll the student in the course. The link to the online form is available in the Graduate School Hub.

**Non-Degree Seeking Student:**

In an effort to improve control over the enrollment of Non-Degree Seeking students, all Non-Degree Seeking students are required to obtain the approval of the instructor for each course.

**Study Abroad:**

The University of Tulsa is committed to offering its students an opportunity to acquire cross-cultural experience by spending a summer term, semester or full year studying overseas. The Center for Global Engagement (CGE) provides oversight for TU's academic programs abroad. CGE advisors work closely with students to assist them in finding appropriate programs which fit their academic needs as well as their personal and career goals. After meeting study abroad application requirements and with the approval of the Graduate School, students can choose to take courses or conduct research abroad while satisfying degree requirements. Students from all disciplines are encouraged to consider applying to participate in a program abroad. For more details on TU's programs abroad, please contact the CGE at (918) 631-3229 or visit the website: <https://global.utulsa.edu>. Federal financial aid and some TU sponsored scholarships are portable on approved study abroad programs keeping the cost for a program abroad relatively close to the same cost as attending TU. A number of competitive study abroad scholarships are also available and students are encouraged to apply.

Any graduate student interested in studying abroad must first contact the Graduate School. Students who have their tuition paid for by a department or a faculty member may not realize that the funding entity may be unwilling to financially support them if they spend a semester traveling abroad. In addition to consulting and securing approval from their graduate program advisor and the Graduate School, interested students must visit with the Center for Global Education office six months prior to the semester in which they wish to study abroad and must submit a special application form.

The study abroad application deadlines are mid-March for summer, fall, and full year programs and mid-October for spring programs. However, host universities will post their own application deadlines which may vary. For more in-depth information concerning the study abroad program and possible financing options, contact CGE directly by phone: (918) 631-3229 or by email: [gloaleducation@utulsa.edu](mailto:gloaleducation@utulsa.edu) or check out the web: <https://global.utulsa.edu>.

***Non-Credit Bearing Programs:*** The University of Tulsa recognizes that students seek a diversity of experiences abroad and that non-credit bearing experiences may provide powerful professional and personal learning experiences. TU also acknowledges that all travel abroad carries particular risks. This document outlines a policy that encourages students to participate in non-credit bearing experiences abroad in a manner consistent with other university policies associated with international travel.

Students participating in non-credit bearing experiences that have been significantly sponsored by The University of Tulsa will be expected to follow the procedures outlined in this document. The University will consider any one of the following conditions evidence that it is a significant sponsor of the experience abroad:

1. The experience abroad is primarily organized, directed, or otherwise coordinated by TU.
2. The student has received financial support to be applied towards his or her participation in the non-credit bearing program. Such financial support may be applied towards travel, registration fees, conference fees, housing or

accommodations, living stipend, or any other expenses directly required for the student to participate in the program.

3. The experience will be conducted by a recognized TU student organization with a faculty advisor.

Students who are participating in an experience that meets at least one of the criteria above will be expected to demonstrate that they are in good academic standing with the University and follow university policies regarding international travel. Additionally, students will be expected to complete the following:

1. *Registration with the Center for Global Engagement:* Students will complete the online registration form for “Non-Credit Bearing Experiences,” available from the CGE website. This form will require the student to provide information including dates of travel, in-country contact information, emergency contacts, and health conditions that may impact travel.
2. *Insurance:* Students must demonstrate that they meet the minimum TU insurance requirements for students participating in international education programs or purchase the requisite coverage. The insurance requirements are explained in the separate policy regarding insurance for students going abroad. The CGE will make available insurance through an approved vendor that specializes in providing coverage for students participating in international education programs, but students will be responsible for purchasing the requisite insurance themselves.
3. *Assumption of Risk:* The student will be expected to sign an “Assumption of Risk” acknowledging the risks associated with his or her participation in independent travel abroad.

### **Withdrawal and Leave of Absences:**

***Voluntary Withdrawal from the University:*** Official withdrawal from the University requires a standard procedure originating through the Graduate School. It is financially and academically advantageous to students to follow the official withdrawal procedure. Students withdrawing prior to the start of the seventh week of a regular semester are entitled to a partial refund of tuition calculated from the date of their official withdrawal. **Nonattendance of classes does not constitute official withdrawal.**

***Medical/Psychological Withdrawal:*** Students wishing to withdraw or take a leave of absence from the University based on a medical or psychological reason should contact the Center for Student Success to discuss their reasons for seeking a withdrawal or a leave of absence, the medical documentation required, their plans while on leave, and to work out any conditions that may be necessary for an easier transition back to The University of Tulsa. It should be noted that a student may voluntarily withdraw before the twelfth week of classes through the normal withdrawal process. The complete policies are available at the Center for Student Access or online at <https://accessibility.utulsa.edu>. Students should seek clarification from the Graduate School as to how this affects their academic status as a full-time or part-time student. However, the six-year statute of limitations regarding course credit is still in effect. The student should also check with the Office of Student Financial Services or their loan provider regarding the effect of a leave on loan obligations or any other financial aid issues. Any financial support currently being provided to the student may or may not be available upon the student’s return. The student will be responsible for working directly with the Bursar’s Office, Housing

Office, and any other campus offices regarding how a leave of absence may affect any obligations to those offices.

***Withdrawal from the University for Military Service:*** Students who are called to active military duty at any time during their enrollment will be eligible for a full refund or credit of their tuition for the semester of their withdrawal. Students are strongly encouraged to discuss their situation with their graduate program advisor to consider alternate arrangements. For example, students who are called to report for active duty near the end of a semester may choose to take “incompletes” in their courses, rather than repeating the entire semester when they return to the University. The University will work closely with students to minimize the impact a withdrawal will have on their academic progress. All students called to active military duty are required to meet with the Veteran’s Coordinator in the Office of the Registrar.

***Voluntary Withdrawal from a Course:*** Withdrawal from a course prior to the start of the fourth week of a regular semester is considered a cancellation of enrollment, and the course is not shown on students’ academic records.

Withdrawal from a course after the start of the fourth week and up to and including the twelfth week of a regular semester will be considered a partial enrollment for which a grade of W (withdrew) will be recorded.

Withdrawals are not permitted after the end of the twelfth week of a regular semester. The schedule for withdrawal from courses and refund of tuition is printed in the schedule of courses for each semester. Any formal withdrawal shall constitute a forfeiture of any and all right to the subsequent make-up of incomplete grades.

The University's tuition refund policy during the **fall and spring semesters** is as follows:

First day of classes .....	100%
Day 2 thru end of 1st week .....	90%
2nd and 3rd week .....	50%
4th thru 7th week .....	25%
Remainder of semester.....	0%

The University’s tuition refund policy during the **summer semester sessions** is as follows:

Day 1.....	100%
Day 2 thru 3... ..	80%
Day 4 thru 6.....	50%
Day 7 thru 9 .....	25%
After 9 days.....	0%

Decisions concerning refunds are made by the Bursar’s Office, and the student should be referred to that office if they have questions. A student wishing to drop a class or classes must complete the online add/drop form (link available on the Graduate School Hub).

Any courses added must be approved by the Graduate Program Advisor or primary research advisor (as in the case of an original enrollment). Students who wish to drop and add a class after classes have started should do so on the same day in order to avoid being charged. Students are subject to the enrollment deadlines found in the university academic calendar.

Please note also that international students and graduate assistants must be enrolled full-time. An international student that drops classes without an equivalent addition of credit hours may be out of status and may, therefore, trigger a SEVIS notification to the Federal Government. This may negatively impact their visa status.

***Non-Voluntary Withdrawal from a Course:*** Students may be withdrawn from a class for habitual behavior which prevents the student or other students from fulfilling the purposes



implied by registration in the University. A grade of “W” will be entered for the course in which the student was registered.

### **Academic Misconduct:**

Much to our disappointment, graduate student academic misconduct occurs every semester. The official Graduate School policy on academic misconduct, which mirrors the academic misconduct policies for the colleges, can be found on the Hub at <http://graduate.utulsa.edu/hub>. Please note that the policy states that all instances of graduate student academic misconduct should be reported to the Graduate School so that we can place this in the academic record and, in consultation with the department and faculty, take additional action as warranted.

### **Requests for New Graduate-Level Courses:**

Submission of a formal request to the Graduate School to offer a new graduate course (7000-level or higher) must follow the proposal and syllabus guidelines set down by Graduate Council. These guidelines are included in Appendix A for your reference.

When a course is being offered to benefit students primarily outside the home discipline of the faculty member, there is usually a letter of support from the department whose students receive the benefit of the course. In addition, on occasion the Graduate School will approve a one-time offering of a course if there is a time restraint for the course to be taught; however, any additional course offerings will require Graduate Council approval.

An undergraduate course that is taught at the senior level (a 4000-level course) may be cross-listed to a 6000-level graduate course. Once again, this requires the submission of a formal petition and a syllabus, per the proposal and syllabus guidelines in Appendix A. The difference here is that a formal statement concerning the additional work that the graduate students would need to perform in order to bring the course up to the graduate level must be included. The 4000-level course must also have received Undergraduate Curriculum Committee approval before 6000-level course approval may be sought at Graduate Council.

### **Policy for Use of 5000/7000 Courses:**

The University has select graduate courses taught at the 7000-level that are cross-listed at the 5000-level and may be taken by undergraduates for undergraduate credit with the approval of the undergraduate program advisor, the instructor of the course, and the graduate program advisor for the discipline in which the course is offered. Undergraduate students in a 5000-level course must meet all the requirements and complete all of the same assignments as required for the graduate students in the 7000-level of the courses. Undergraduate students are evaluated in exactly the same way as the graduate students in that course. This option is intended for exceptional undergraduates with at least junior standing.

Students are permitted to enroll in up to six credit hours of 5000- or graduate courses (6000-level or higher) per semester while completing their undergraduate degree. Any exception to this requires the approval of the Graduate School Dean. In no case will a student be admitted to a 5000-level course without permission of the instructor.

If your department offers cross-listed courses at the 5000/7000 level, then you need to carefully administer enrollments in these courses. You should not approve enrollment of any undergraduate in the 5000-level of a course if the undergraduate’s academic record does not clearly indicate:

- 1) a high level of academic success at the undergraduate level (minimum cumulative GPA of 3.0);
- 2) at least junior standing;

- 3) the potential for success when being evaluated based on graduate-level academic expectations.

Appeals from students who were denied enrollment to a 5000-level course must be submitted to the chair of the department in which the course resides.

The general policies for 5000/7000 courses are available in Appendix A at the end of this Handbook. Your responsibilities concerning enrollments in these courses include:

1. Approving course choices for all students enrolling in a 5000/7000 course. All students enrolling in a course at the 5000-level need permission of their undergraduate advisor, the course instructor, and the graduate program advisor for the department in which the 5000/7000 course resides.
2. Ensuring that only a small minority of the total enrollment in such a course is at the 5000-level. You should pay attention to the number of enrollments you approve for each 5000/7000 course to check for occasions when too many students are enrolling in a course at the 5000 level.
3. Ensuring students who have received credit for a 5000/7000 course at the 5000-level do not retake the same course for credit at the 7000-level. Carefully evaluate each student's transcript when preparing to enroll the student to ensure that there is no duplication of courses at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

#### **Policy for Use of 3000/6000 or 4000/6000 Courses:**

In some programs, 3000/4000 level undergraduate courses, may be taken for graduate credit with the approval of the graduate program advisor by adding the designation 6000-level to the course numbers. Undergraduate courses taken for graduate credit must be 6000-level courses approved for registration. Graduate tuition must be paid for such courses. Students enrolled in these courses for graduate credit will be given assignments beyond those required for undergraduate students in the same course. Students who have previously enrolled in a course at the 3000/4000-level may not enroll in the same course at the 6000-level.

The faculty responsible for the program must submit a written justification for any master's degree program containing more than 40 percent of its total credit hours (excluding the removal of deficiencies) in 6000-level courses. Such justification must be approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

#### **'Cane Quickstart Program Advising**

For students planning to participate in the 'Cane Quickstart program, the graduate advisor will want to begin advising students early in their undergraduate careers. Successful completion of a quickstart degree requires careful advising of undergraduates, generally beginning sometime in their sophomore year. Please assist students in developing an enrollment strategy for the timely completion of both their undergraduate and graduate degrees, including the enrollment in appropriate courses to be double-counted for both degrees.

There are two methods for undergraduate students to quickstart a graduate degree.

1. **Taking 5000-level courses** that will count toward both undergraduate and graduate degrees. Select graduate courses taught at the 7000-level are cross-listed at the 5000-level and may be taken by undergraduates for undergraduate credit. Enrollment in 5000-level courses requires the approval of (1) the undergraduate program advisor, (2) the instructor of the course, and (3) the graduate program advisor for the discipline in which the course is offered.
  - a. This option is intended for exceptional undergraduates with at least junior standing. Following approval by the relevant graduate program advisor,

5000-level courses may be eligible to double count towards future TU graduate program requirements.

- i. It is up to graduate program advisors to approve the number of credit hours allowed for double-counting for individual students.
  - b. Approved undergraduate students are limited to two 5000-level courses a semester, as long as all other coursework is 4000-level or lower. If a student is taking a 6000- or 7000-level course (after applying to the Graduate School, *see 2.a. below*) while also completing an undergraduate degree, only one 5000-level course may be taken in the same semester.
    - i. Any exception to this requires the approval of the Graduate Dean.
  - c. Undergraduate students in a 5000-level course must meet all the requirements and complete all of the same assignments as required for the graduate students in the 7000-level of the course. Undergraduate students are evaluated in exactly the same way as the graduate students in that course.
    - i. Students may not receive credit for a course at the 5000-level and then later retake the same course at the 7000-level.
    - ii. Any grades associated with the 5000-level credit hours will not be included when computing the student's graduate cumulative G.P.A.
    - iii. Successful completion of 5000-level coursework does not guarantee admission to a graduate program.
  - d. Double counting of 5000-level coursework is capped at: up to nine hours for graduate programs requiring 36 hours or less, twelve hours in programs with 37 to 45 hours, and up to fifteen hours for programs requiring in excess of forty-five hours.
    - i. The limits listed above are a maximum allowable amount only and it is not guaranteed that all students would be able to double-count coursework, even if it was below that maximum limit for that program.
  - e. Undergraduate students will work with the undergraduate advising office to enroll in 5000-level courses.
2. **Taking graduate courses** (6000- or 7000-level) toward a graduate degree while enrolled as an undergraduate.
  - a. Undergraduate students that are at least junior level may apply to the Graduate School as a non-degree seeking student or to a specific graduate program. In either case, once accepted to the Graduate School, undergraduate students may take graduate level courses, typically 6000- or 7000-level.
    - i. Undergraduate students are limited to two graduate courses or one graduate course and one 5000-level course per semester.
      1. Any exception to this requires the approval of the Graduate Dean.
  - b. Once officially admitted to a graduate program, up to six hours of graduate coursework may be applied towards a master's degree and up to 12 hours of graduate coursework may be applied towards a doctoral degree.
  - c. Undergraduate students will work with the Graduate School to enroll in graduate courses.

## GRADUATE STUDENT ORIENTATION

Each fall and spring semester the Graduate School sponsors the New Graduate Student Orientation, which provides an introduction to the university at large. In addition to the mandatory workshops administered through Harvey, there is a live session the Thursday evening before the start of the semester. The Graduate Advisor should encourage new students to attend.

A required Graduate Assistant Orientation Workshop is offered the week before fall classes start. **This workshop is required for all new graduate students with Teaching, Research, or Departmental Assistantships.**

New international students are also required to attend a workshop offered by the International Student Services Office. **This workshop is required of all new international graduate students.** ISS reviews many of the policies and regulations that affect student immigration status and provide general information that will be beneficial to students new to the United States.

In addition to the New Graduate Student Orientation presented by the Graduate School, it is expected that each department will hold its own orientation to welcome new students to the department. Allocating some portion of the departmental orientation to welcome returning students and to introduce new and returning students is recommended.

## LIFE SKILLS WORKSHOPS

The Graduate School has developed a sequence of Life Skill Workshops to help graduate students cultivate skills that are necessary for success in Graduate School, the transition into the job market, and for professional development. The content of these workshops is designed to complement the content of traditional courses of study. Three of these Life Skills Workshops are included in the Fall and Spring Orientation events, while the rest are offered throughout the academic year.

A list of topics for our Life Skills Workshop Series is provided below with comments:

### **Research Integrity**

***Required of all new graduate students during their first year of enrollment.***

Offered within the Harvey Orientation.

Includes an overview of responsibilities of researchers in conducting research, interacting with colleagues, and complying with University policies and regulations of external sponsors as it relates to ethics and responsible conduct of research.

### **Harassment: Defining It, Avoiding It, and Reporting It**

***Required of all new graduate students during their first year of enrollment.***

Offered within the Harvey Orientation.

The purpose of this workshop is to educate graduate students about the various types of harassment they may encounter or need to avoid, as well as inform them about TU policies regarding harassment and how those policies affect or apply to a person as a student, colleague, or graduate assistant.

### **Plagiarism and How to Avoid It**

***Required of all new graduate students during their first year of enrollment.***

Offered within the Harvey Orientation.

This workshop is meant to help students understand the consequences of plagiarism and help them learn to identify and avoid plagiarism. The Graduate School deals with this issue every year and several graduate students have been dismissed in the past.

### **McFarlin Library Research**

Specialized instruction in the compilation of data and research materials using resources available in McFarlin Library. Offered fall and spring terms with some specialty topics.

### **Grant Writing**

Specialized instruction in the process of grant writing with a focus on the humanities, engineering, and natural sciences.

### **Future Faculty**

Discussion and tips for students interested in pursuing a career in academia.

### **Getting Money Savvy**

Led by TU's Financial Wellness Consultant, this workshop covers money solutions for issues graduate students face, including student loans, budgeting, etc.

### **Etiquette Basics**

Workshop includes a demonstration and discussion of important etiquette skills for networking, followed by an opportunity to practice the skills learned during the presentation.

### **Cross-Disciplinary Presentation Skills**

*This workshop is associated with the TU Student Research Colloquium.*

A discussion of techniques and suggestions on how to present graduate-level research to a broad audience of non-specialists in a clear, comprehensive, and engaging manner.

## GRADES / SCHOLARSHIP

Because a “B” average is required of all graduate students at The University of Tulsa, the cumulative graduate GPA of all students is reviewed after the end of each term. Students who fall below the required “B” average will be placed on **probation**. If it is determined that it is mathematically impossible for a student to reach a 3.0 GPA within nine (9) hours of graduate work, the student may be immediately dismissed. Students must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA in order to be awarded a graduate degree.

In order to achieve a “B” average, each three (3) hours of a grade of “C” must be offset by three (3) hours of “A” work. Both grades of “D” and “F” result in zero points towards the student's graduate GPA. Therefore, nine (9) hours of “A” must be awarded to offset three (3) hours of either “D” or “F” work. NOTE: If a course is repeated, the second grade **does not** replace the first, as is the case for University undergraduate course work. Both grades remain on the transcript, and are included in the cumulative GPA (many graduate students are not aware of the change in standards between undergraduate and graduate work.)

Students who are consistently not performing at the high “B” or “A” level should be advised that their performance is only marginally acceptable. It is not recommended to place these students on assistantships because the additional work-related duties may distract these students from their academic studies. Students who do not maintain a 3.0 cumulative GPA are not eligible to receive graduate assistantships or may lose their assistantship should they fail to remain in good academic standing.

The probation policy states that a student will be allowed nine (9) additional hours of enrollment to raise his/her cumulative GPA to the required 3.0. Only courses taken at The University of Tulsa will be used to determine the grade point average for purposes of removal from probation. If the average GPA is not raised to 3.0 after the completion of nine (9) additional hours and within the appropriate time period, the student may be dismissed from the Graduate School.

If low grades are earned in undergraduate deficiencies, the advisor is expected to initiate the proper action as to the continuation or dismissal of the student. Any grade point requirements for deficiency course work necessary to meet the admission requirements must be noted in the program's admission recommendation and be incorporated in the applicant's admission letter.

The Master of Athletic Training and Doctor of Nursing Practice programs in the Oxley College of Health Sciences require students to meet higher grading standards. Students in the MAT program must receive a "B" or higher in each required ATRG course. CRNS, Acute Care and Family Nurse Practitioner Program-specific courses with prefixes DNPA, DNPC, DNPF as well as DNP 8023, DNP 8033, and DNP 8013 require a grade of "B" or higher for program progression.

### **Starfish:**

Students who are having academic difficulty should be reported through the Starfish System. These reports will come directly to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School who will work with the Graduate Program Advisor and the faculty in the department to uncover necessary details and to attempt to assist the student. The Graduate Program Advisor and the chair of the department are strongly encouraged to convey the importance of graduate faculty use of the Retention Alert system.

### **Grade Petitions:**

Grade appeals are governed by the grade appeal policy of individual Colleges. Because each discipline has its own culture, colleagues in the associated disciplines are better able to understand these issues. Each of the colleges has a process to review grade petitions.

**Incompletes:**

An I (Incomplete) grade indicates that some portion of the student's work is lacking, for an acceptable reason, at the time grades are reported. It is the responsibility of the student to fulfill the requirements for the course within a maximum of one calendar year from the date on which the course was originally to have been completed, or within a more restricted period of time as designated by the instructor on the Contract for Graduate on Incomplete. If the student is unable to do so because of circumstances beyond his or her control, the student may petition the instructor of the course and the Dean of the Graduate School for an extension of time.

When the instructor grants an incomplete, a Contract for Graduate of Incomplete form must be completed and filed in the Graduate School Office (see Appendix A). This form, to be signed by the instructor and by the student, should specify what must be done to remove the incomplete and give a deadline for completion of the unfinished work. The faculty may give a maximum of one calendar year for completion of the work or specify less than one calendar year on the contract. Following the expiration of the contract deadline or one calendar year, if an earlier deadline is not specified, a grade may be assigned. A symbol (IZ) may be added to the transcript indicating that the course is no longer valid and the incomplete may not be removed.

These regulations do not apply to non-coursework enrollments (which include enrollment in Practicum, Advanced Practicum, Internship, Externship, Project Report, Research and Paper, Pre-Dissertation Research, Research Experience, Independent Study, Directed Reading, or Qualifying Exam Prep) in which completion of the work necessary to satisfy that enrollment is not required at the end of the semester.

**Thesis and Dissertations Hours:**

Thesis and dissertation enrollments are evaluated on a satisfactory-unsatisfactory basis. At the end of each semester when the thesis or dissertation is in progress, either an S (Satisfactory) or a U (Unsatisfactory) is assigned. Research hours with a grade of S count toward graduation requirements, while research hours with a grade of U do not. These grades are permanent and have no impact on a student's grade point average, but may affect the graduate student's academic standing. Departments may also use U grades to request dismissal of a student from the program.

**Internships:**

Individual departments may enroll students in internships that contribute to their educational goals. Whether credit is offered for paid internships is at the discretion of the department. To earn credit there must be a course number associated with the internship, a professor of record, prior approval by the professor of record, and agreement on how the student will demonstrate having achieved the credit-worthy academic goals of the internship. Like independent study courses, there may be multiple sections of the course with different professors of record as appropriate. Management of the number of such sections and how they are administered will be left to the governance of the college faculty and its dean.

**Transfer of Credits:**

The Graduate Program Advisor is responsible for determining the applicability of transfer work to the student's program. Any such credit must be from an accredited graduate school, and the course work must be current (usually within the student's six-year Statute of Limitation). Under no circumstances can undergraduate credit be transferred as graduate credit. In addition, course work used to satisfy requirements for one graduate degree **may not** be transferred to meet the requirements for a second graduate degree.

Graduate credit for transfers will be recommended by the Graduate Program Advisor to the Graduate School only after the student has completed the same number of credit hours at The University of Tulsa with at least a 3.0 grade point average. Transfer credit is limited to six hours (with an “A” or “B” grade) at the master’s level and twelve hours (with an “A” or “B” grade) at the Doctoral level. All transfer credit is subject to final approval by the Dean of the Graduate School. The "Request for Transfer of Graduate Credit" form must be used for requesting transfer of credit hours (see Appendix A).

The number of hours transferred will be reflected on the student's University transcript. The grades associated with the transfer credit will not be used in calculating The University of Tulsa grade point average. Thus, a probationary status cannot be removed by transferring hours taken in residence at another school.

**Undergraduate Courses for Graduate Credit:**

In the Graduate School, no more than 40% of the courses taken for a graduate degree can be at the 6000-level. Exceptions to this rule must have the written approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. Undergraduate courses acceptable for graduate credit for each program are indicated in the *Graduate Bulletin*.



## **CREDIT HOURS REQUIRED FOR DEGREES**

In situations where a student has acquired a Master's degree and is continuing on for a Doctoral degree, the course work completed for the Master's may be evaluated and recommended by the Graduate Program Advisor as contributing to the post-Bachelor's credit hours required for the degree. The Graduate Program Advisor may choose to validate only specific courses as applicable. The "Request for Waiver of Graduate Credit" form must be used for requesting waiver of credit hours (see Appendix A).

The maximum number of hours from the Master's degree that can be counted toward the Ph.D. is 30 hours. The department, however, recommends how many of the hours from the Master's program should be counted towards to the Ph.D. based on the quality and relevance of the course work. Note that the hours from the Master's degree are not transferred to The University of Tulsa, but may be counted towards the Ph.D. However, if additional hours were taken beyond what was required for the Master's degree, a maximum of twelve (12) hours may also be transferred to The University of Tulsa.

If a student has more than one Master's degree, only credits from one Master's program may be applied to the Doctoral program.

## **STUDENT RECORDS**

The Graduate School maintains an electronic file on each student in Perspective Content and is the official repository for the student's official records. This file should contain a copy of

1. The student's application,
2. All transcripts of previous undergraduate, graduate, and/or certificate coursework,
3. All Letters of Reference (two letter minimum),
4. Copies of test scores (GRE, GMAT, TOEFL, etc.),
5. Letter of admission which documents any conditions of admission, and
6. All materials relating to the student's program of study (i.e., course requirements, exam requirements and actions, advisory/thesis/dissertation committee members).

Program files should be treated as absolutely confidential and be carefully secured. If students desire access to materials in their files, they must access those materials in their file maintained by the Graduate School and they must complete the appropriate form(s). Students requesting access to transcript information must complete a "Request for Inspection and Review of Transcripts" form and have it approved by the Registrar's Office. To review any other documentation in the student's file, the student must complete a "Request for Inspection and Review of Education Records Form" and have it approved by the Dean of Students. Both forms must be submitted to the Graduate School and only the Graduate School will make these materials available to the student. Letters of recommendation will be treated as confidential; students will not be allowed to review their recommendations regardless of presenting a valid request form. The only exception to these rules is access to course and exam requirements.

The Graduate Program Advisor is responsible for having knowledge of all students, both active and inactive, in his/her program and can view unofficial transcripts for these students in Self Service.

## RESIDENCY REQUIREMENTS

### Doctoral Degrees:

In any Doctoral program, a minimum of one year of residency (two consecutive semesters) at The University of Tulsa as a full-time student is required. To be classified as a full-time student, a student must enroll in a minimum of nine hours per semester. For students involved in instructional and/or research responsibilities at the University, the normal course load is nine hours per semester.

### All Graduate Students:

#### *Residency 7961:*

All graduate students must be enrolled during their final semester in order to graduate. Students who have enrolled in the required number of hours for their degree, but who have not completed all requirements for the degree, must be enrolled by the Graduate School in Residency 7961 if they wish to be considered for graduation in that term, take qualifying or comprehensive examinations, make an oral defense of a thesis or dissertation, and/or if they wish to make use of University resources (such as libraries, computers, or faculty) during a given semester. Therefore, this requirement is not restricted to the semester in which the student completes his/her work. Credit hours from Residency may not be used to meet the credit hour requirement for a degree.

#### *Final Enrollment 7990:*

Students who enroll in a semester and complete their degree requirements after the end of that semester, but before the start of the next semester are required to enroll in Final Enrollment (7990). There is no tuition charge for enrollment in 7990. Students may only enroll in 7990 after all of the requirements for the degree have been met.

Circumstances where enrollment in Final Enrollment 7990 is applicable:

- Students who submit their thesis or dissertation after commencement but before the beginning of classes for the next semester.
- Non-thesis students who have taken all required courses for the degree but received an “Incomplete” in one or more courses.
- Students who are transferred by their employer prior to their last semester at the University of Tulsa, and successfully petition the Graduate School to attend another accredited institution to complete their degree program. The credits are then transferred to appear on the student’s University of Tulsa transcript as prescribed in the transfer credit policy.

If the student does not satisfy any of the above three conditions for enrolling in Final Enrollment, they will need to enroll in at least one hour of Graduate Residency or Thesis/Dissertation.

## THESIS AND DISSERTATION PROGRAMS

### **Managing Thesis and Doctoral Students:**

Management practices vary widely across disciplines and departments and are, to a certain extent, in the purview of the dissertation advisor. However, Graduate Program Advisors can facilitate in many ways and help to ensure that students are making good progress towards the completion of the degree. While early creation of thesis and doctoral committees can be of considerable value in this effort (please see the next section on this subject), early enrollment in dissertation hours is discouraged. In particular, it is recommended by the Graduate School, that students enroll in pre-dissertation research or independent study until the semester they are expected to defend their proposal. It is recommended that students defend their dissertation proposal as soon as possible, rather than waiting until the bulk of the research is done. If the latter path is taken, the student is put at risk because the dissertation committee may not be supportive of the research.

Time to degree completion is a chronic issue in graduate education and the Graduate Program Advisor can help reduce the severity of this problem in his or her department. In particular, the thesis and dissertation advisors and the graduate program advisor should work with students who are not making adequate progress, and the thesis or doctoral student should be informed in writing when progress towards completion of the dissertation has become inadequate. Students who have started work without completing their dissertation should be contacted frequently and encouraged to finish. All students should be reminded of the six-year statute of limitations and encouraged to make consistent progress towards degree completion. The Graduate School would be pleased to assist in these efforts as requested and will intervene through the department advisors and chairs as necessary.

### **Committees:**

Special requirements apply to students who are completing a thesis or dissertation. Written notice of the student's oral and/or written examinations should be forwarded to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School at least two weeks prior to the date of the examinations. Please note that the thesis or dissertation committee should be submitted to the Associate Dean of the Graduate School for approval when the student begins work on the thesis or dissertation, not at the time of its completion. The justification for this is that the committee serves in an advisory capacity throughout the time that work is being done on the thesis or dissertation. Therefore, the committee should be formed when work on the thesis or dissertation begins.

At least one half of the committee members must have regular appointments in the student's home department. A non-faculty member may co-chair a student's committee, but this is not the normal practice. There must be a full-time University faculty member from the degree program as the chair or co-chair of a student's Master's or Doctoral committee. Co-chairing by an outside (non-TU faculty) member has traditionally been permitted in specific circumstances: 1) a former TU faculty member has taken a job elsewhere and no longer has a TU appointment, or 2) there is a long-term relationship between the individual and the University (such as research associate, consistent adjunct faculty member), and this is the prime person leading the student's research. Approval of the student's committee must also be requested of the Graduate School. The other co-chair must be a full-time TU faculty member in the department awarding the degree because TU faculty are responsible for having the student follow the University's and departmental policies, procedures and expectations.

### **Doctoral Program Admission to Candidacy:**

After a doctoral student has successfully defended their dissertation proposal and passed the comprehensive examinations, the advisor should recommend that the student be admitted to doctoral candidacy. The student must be enrolled during the semester when he/she is admitted to candidacy. The names of the individuals serving on the student's committee are also to be listed.

### **Public Defense:**

In each of the graduate programs, except for the Doctoral program in English, students are generally required to make a public defense of their thesis or dissertation. The membership of the thesis or dissertation committee must be approved by the Graduate School and members should be given a copy of the thesis or dissertation at least two weeks in advance of the defense. Since the defense is public, except for exceptional circumstances and with the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School, a public notice of the defense should be posted on campus and faculty and students should be encouraged to attend.

### **Copyright Restrictions for Items in McFarlin Library Special Collections:**

A Special Collection may be owned by a library but that does not mean that the library controls the copyright. You need to check with both McFarlin Library and the Copyright Clearinghouse regarding copyright permission in regards to items you wish to use in a thesis, dissertation, or future publications.

### **Intellectual Property:**

A student's research project for the master's or doctoral degree may result in a patentable discovery, whereby the inventor may be a student or a student and an advisor. Timely disclosure of the findings to the University of Tulsa Intellectual Property Committee will not delay a student's graduation. The University of Tulsa recognizes the potential benefits of the intellectual capital of its faculty, staff and students to society, to the University, and to themselves. The University has placed a high priority on realizing those benefits.

Technical information, discoveries, inventions, computer algorithms and patents resulting from investigation or research conducted by employees or students of the University of Tulsa which is financed in whole or in part from funds administered by the University, or as a direct result of an employee's duties or a student's academic pursuits with the University, or made in whole or in part by the utilization of University resources or facilities, are the property of the University of Tulsa. The intellectual property shall, on request, be assigned to the University or its designee, unless the University relinquishes its rights therein to the inventor. Creators of intellectual property at the University of Tulsa share in the recognition and rewards derived from these works.

Disclosure occurs when doing an open presentation at a national meeting or even on campus (e.g., a thesis or dissertation defense). In the United States, we have a first to file policy (i.e., file versus receive a patent.) Foreign patents must be applied for prior to disclosure. If disclosure occurs before patent application, international patent rights are forfeited. Therefore, if the intellectual property is of great potential, the University may choose to file for a foreign patent as well as a U.S. patent. This means there should be no disclosure. An intermediate step would be to file a provisional patent where the intent is to file a full patent application later. The date of the provisional patent application becomes the date of filing, hence generating the one-year window. Best practice would be to avoid the problem. But if it cannot be avoided, one may opt to be careful during the thesis defense. Ideally there is enough other information in a thesis to avoid disclosing the "intellectual property" and the problem is avoided. Again, best practice is to avoid the problem.

The University is permitted to hold a thesis or dissertation from public domain (shelf in the library and digital submission) for a limited time to allow for patenting. For more information regarding our Research and Intellectual Property Policy, please refer to the website: <http://utulsa.edu/research/office-research/intellectual-property/>.

## **DEGREE COMPLETION AND GRADUATION**

It is the responsibility of the Graduate Program Advisor of non-thesis students, or the Committee Chairperson in the case of thesis or dissertation students, to assist the student in ensuring that all of the requirements for graduation are met. All necessary documents in the student's file should be signed, all necessary "Incompletes" removed, all indebtedness to the University satisfied, and the Graduation Check Form signed and returned to the Graduate School. In addition, the student must be enrolled the semester they graduate. These requirements must be satisfied by April 15 for graduation in the spring, December 1 for graduation in the fall, and the last day of the summer session for graduation in August.

One of the more common problems that delays a student's graduation is the failure of the Graduate Program Advisor, Committee Chairperson, or other faculty to remove "Incompletes". This is especially true for "Incompletes" associated with a thesis or dissertation. When problems are eventually corrected, the transcript and records will show the proper date for graduation, but this is a situation that we should all strive to avoid.

### **Commencement Policy (Petitioning to Walk):**

If a student wants to walk in May graduation but has not completed all their degree requirements, they must petition their advisor and the Graduate School for permission to walk. For inclusion in spring commencement, the student must submit the petition to walk by April 15. This does not guarantee a student's name may be listed in the graduation program but allows students with special circumstances an opportunity to coordinate their commencement ceremony for more convenient times. The circumstances under which a student qualifies for this exemption to policy are explained below.

Deserving non-thesis graduate students who have only six (6) credit hours remaining to complete all the requirements for their degree by the end of the summer session will be permitted to take part in spring graduation ceremonies, including having their names printed in the commencement program. However, the student must petition both the advisor and the Graduate School in writing. The student must not have a marginal GPA and must be enrolled in the necessary summer courses before the petition will be considered. Documentation of summer enrollment and present GPA must be submitted to the Graduate School at the time the petition comes forward from the advisor. Exceptions will be considered, but only under extraordinary circumstances.

Enrolled students who complete all degree requirements and upload the final drafts of their thesis or dissertation to ProQuest after the April 15 deadline, but before the spring commencement dates, may graduate that semester upon review and approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. In such cases, students who wish to participate in commencement exercises must submit the petition by April 15, although the petition may arrive too late for their names to appear in that semester's commencement program. If all approvals are received, the student is then eligible to participate in commencement. If a student fails to petition their advisor and the Graduate School for permission to walk early, they will have to wait until the next commencement ceremony to participate.

Students that have completed all degree requirements, including final submission of their thesis or dissertation, but are not able to participate in the Commencement exercises for their final semester, may petition the Graduate School to delay walking to a later ceremony. However, participation in Commencement may only be postponed for up to one year from the semester the student was originally eligible to walk.

## **STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS**

The purpose of the Statute of Limitations is to ensure that when a student graduates from this University, they are current in their field and competent in their area. The work for a degree must be completed within six years. This policy holds even if a student was absent or not enrolled during several semesters. A student who allows the time limit to expire and is subsequently readmitted must also meet the new requirements for the degree as stipulated in the program at the time of readmission. Graduate work more than six years old must be validated for currentness in the discipline, and the student must be current and competent as determined by examinations or other means of evaluation given at the discretion of the major program department. When all work toward the degree is out of date, it is possible to validate six of the out-of-date hours to be applied toward future work on the degree. All petitions for extension must be recommended by the student's advisor and approved by the Dean of the Graduate School.

For doctoral students, the six year limit is not applied to credits that are applied to a Master's degree in the field. The exception to this rule is for doctoral students in clinical psychology who are admitted directly to the Ph.D. program. In this case, if the student chooses to earn a Master's degree, the hours for the Masters will be subject to the six year Statute of Limitations.

A more stringent statute of limitations may be imposed under the particular requirements of individual programs.



## **THE COMMITTEE FOR PETITIONS OF THE GRADUATE COUNCIL**

Students have the right to appeal any graduate academic decision. Grade appeals are governed by the grade appeal policy of individual Colleges. In all other cases, students should attempt to resolve issues at the appropriate level and work with the relevant faculty members, the Graduate Program Advisor, Chair of the Department and other appropriate academic agents. If a student cannot resolve the issue, they have the right to appeal the decision to the Graduate School. Appeals to the Graduate School must be in writing.

The Committee for Petitions of the Graduate Council considers petitions submitted in writing by any person who believes that he or she was treated improperly on a graduate academic matter, but only after attempts have been made to resolve the problems by discussions with relevant faculty members, the Graduate Program Advisor, the Chair of the Department, and the Dean of the Graduate School. Only academic issues involving procedures and affecting status in the graduate program are considered. The Committee makes recommendations to the Dean regarding the disposition of

- student petitions requesting departure from established Graduate School policies,
- petitions involving charges of academic misconduct involving graduate students (these cases may be brought by the student or by the faculty member involved),
- petitions involving a perceived academic impropriety arising from an action taken by an instructor, a department, an administrator, or a committee charged to administer academic policies of a particular department or college.

Committee membership includes at least three graduate faculty from at least three different colleges offering graduate study. The Dean of the Graduate School designates the chair; the Committee elects the vice-chair, who presides in the absence of the chair and also in cases in which the petition being considered originates in the chair's college. When a committee member is from the department where the petition originates, that member participates in the deliberations regarding the petition, but neither chairs the Committee nor votes on the disposition of the petition. Three or more committee members constitute a quorum, and a majority of three committee members is needed to sustain a charge. A tie vote indicates that the charge was not proven and is therefore rejected.

The Committee elects a secretary who keeps the minutes of all meetings. Written records of the proceedings are preserved for three years, along with any written statements of evidence presented. A copy of the written record is available to the petitioner upon request. Costs incurred in producing the copy are the responsibility of the petitioner. The petitioner has the right to see contrary evidence submitted to the committee and to write a rebuttal.

The person bringing the complaint must file the petition with the Graduate School during the semester in which the incident occurred, or during the subsequent two semesters. The petitioners may appear before the Committee, but only at the Committee's invitation, and the Committee may also invite other concerned parties to attend. The petition is available to anyone against whom allegations are made so that those individuals may have the opportunity to respond.

The Committee conveys its findings and recommendations in writing to the Dean of the Graduate School. The petitioner and any accused person may see the final report and may write a response to be kept with the final report.

Any appeals concerning the outcome of the petition may be addressed to the Provost of The University of Tulsa and must be submitted within seven calendar days after the petitioner or accused person has been notified of the outcome. For further details concerning jurisdiction, procedures, and confidentiality issues concerning The Committee for Petitions of the Graduate Council, call the Graduate School Office.

## **POLICY ON HARASSMENT**

An incident of Prohibited Harassment may be reported to any University official or faculty member, including an individual's supervisor, department chairperson or dean, the Director of Personnel Services, or the Dean of Students of The University of Tulsa. Students who need to report an incident of Prohibited Harassment after regular business hours of the University should report the incident to the Campus Security Office if the student's supervisor is unavailable and/or other administrative offices are closed. The Campus Security Office will take appropriate action and will notify the appropriate administrative office at the beginning of the next business day.

Students will have the opportunity to attend a Policy on Harassment training session during their orientation session and at other times during the academic year. The policy on harassment for The University of Tulsa is located in The University of Tulsa Policies and Procedures Manual.

## **FINANCIAL SUPPORT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

Graduate student financial support at The University of Tulsa, awarded through the Graduate School, falls into three categories: Assistantships, Fellowships, and Tuition Scholarships.

Assistantships combine a scholarship for tuition and a monthly stipend in return for a specified number of hours of duties performed. These stipends are subject to taxation because they are remuneration for duties.

Fellowships have no associated duties, and the award is based on academic achievement. While no duties are required, the student may still be liable for federal and/or state tax to the extent that the amount of the fellowship exceeds tuition and certain educational expenditures (such as textbooks). Room and board are not excluded expenditures. However, determining tax liability is the responsibility of the student and their tax consultant.

Tuition scholarships are non-service awards given on the basis of academic achievement and are currently not subject to taxation.

Graduate students who are full-time students should not have awards that require more than 20 hours per week of duties.

Please note that international students with F-1 or J-1 Visas are not permitted to work more than 20 hours per week. Exceptions to this rule cannot be made by the Graduate School since this is a federal law. Students with questions concerning this rule or any other issues related to their visa status should be directed to the Center for Global Engagement.

### **RESOLUTION OF THE COUNCIL OF GRADUATE SCHOOLS**

#### **REGARDING GRADUATE SCHOLARS, FELLOWS, TRAINEES, AND ASSISTANTS**

Acceptance of an offer of financial support (such as a graduate scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, or assistantship) for the next academic year by a prospective or enrolled graduate student completes an agreement that both the student and the Graduate School are expected to honor. In that context, the conditions affecting such offers and their acceptance must be defined carefully and understood by all parties.

Students are under no obligation to respond to offers of financial support prior to April 15; earlier deadlines for acceptance of such offers violate the intent of this Resolution. In those instances in which a student accepts an offer before April 15, and subsequently desires to withdraw that acceptance, the student may submit in writing a resignation of the appointment at any time through April 15. However, an acceptance given or left in force after April 15 commits the student not to first inform the program that they are withdrawing or resigning for the offer of financial support that they previously had accepted. Starting in Fall 2020, applicants are no longer required to obtain a formal release from the program whose offer they accepted, either before or after the April 15 deadline. It is further agreed by the institutions and organizations subscribing to this Resolution that a copy of the Resolution should accompany every scholarship, fellowship, traineeship, and assistantship offer.

#### **ASSISTANTSHIPS**

In order to be eligible to receive an assistantship, a graduate student must be admitted to a degree-seeking graduate program, be in good academic standing, and must be a full-time student. Students must maintain a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and be on track with their degree program. Students on probation are not eligible for consideration. Full-time enrollment is defined as nine credit hours per semester. Enrollment in zero to eight credit hours is acceptable for full-

time status for two sequential regular semesters in a Master's program or four sequential regular semesters in a Doctoral program when the student has completed at least nine credit hours per semester for the prior two sequential regular semesters. These reduced-credit-hour semesters are to be the final semesters in a student's degree program. In order to be eligible for assistantship support during the summer, a student must be enrolled in at least one hour of graduate credit for the following fall semester or one hour in the summer semester. The object code to be used on the student's Payroll Authorization which is submitted to the Graduate School is 51000, whether the student is enrolled or not.

Applicants for graduate assistantships, GAs (which include departmental assistantships (DA), research assistantships (RA), and administrative assistantships (AA)) must also meet any eligibility requirements of the specific appointment and perform their graduate assistantship duties satisfactorily, as defined by their immediate supervisor or department. These requirements include maintaining appropriate standards of academic and professional conduct and honoring all terms of the assistantship contract. Graduate students who are involved in academic or professional misconduct either as a student or in their assistantship duties, or who are otherwise involved in conduct that undermines the integrity of The University of Tulsa, are subject to sanctions that could include immediate termination of the assistantship and dismissal from the Graduate School, as well as other appropriate sanctions.

Allocation of Departmental Assistantships to departments will be completed by the Graduate School as early in the Spring term as allowed by the budget process. Using the spreadsheet provided by the Graduate School, departments should award the majority of their Departmental Assistantships by late February or early March and forward these to the Graduate School. The Dean of the Graduate School will review the awards and provide prompt notification to the recipients. The awardees will be given two weeks, or up to April 15, to accept the assistantships. The best opportunity to recruit new students with assistantship awards is by notifying in February or March. Programs are doing a disservice to themselves by submitting recommendations for awards later in the spring semester.

**A graduate assistant may not work an additional position on campus that pays hourly.** According to federal law, one may not be classified as both monthly and hourly. An hourly appointment would need to be converted to monthly and the total hours on the combined awards may not exceed 20 hours per week during the regular semesters and 40 hours per week during the summer session (if a student is taking summer courses, there is a reduction in the number of hours per week of work allowed). Violation of this policy may result in termination of the assistantship.

It is the responsibility of the Graduate Program Advisor to provide the graduate assistant with careful directions regarding his/her assistantship assignment and responsibilities, as well as to monitor the student's performance. When shortcomings or weaknesses in performance are identified, the assistant should be immediately advised and recommendations for improvement should be provided. A record of such communication should be maintained in the departmental file and a copy sent to the Graduate School. Students should be advised that reappointment to an assistantship is **not** automatic. **Annual reconsideration is required**, and their current performance will affect the likelihood of reappointment.

In the case of an assistantship funded by departmental funds or from research grants and contracts, the Graduate Student Payroll Authorization form should be used. The authorization should be sent to the collegiate dean's office for signature and then to the Graduate School for approval. If the assistantship is funded from an externally funded grant, the collegiate dean's office should forward the authorization to the Office of Research and Sponsored Projects, which will then forward to the Graduate School. Please be sure that the authorization contains the account number to be charged for the award, the beginning and end dates of the award, the

amount of the award, and contains the appropriate authorization signature(s).

### **Graduate Assistant Responsibilities**

Graduate Assistants are expected to adhere to all terms of their assistantship contract as well as other appropriate university policies concerning proper conduct. This includes working the appropriate number of hours stipulated on the assistantship award and working with the Graduate Program Advisor or immediate Supervisor to establish a work schedule that is acceptable to both parties. Any special needs or circumstances regarding a Graduate Assistant's ability to perform or complete assigned assistantship-related tasks should be addressed to the appropriate party as soon as possible.

In general, Graduate Assistants are expected to be professional, respectful of others, as well as helpful and welcoming to all constituencies. Assistants who work with the general public, undergraduates, graduate students or other university offices should be aware that they are ambassadors both for their office and for the University. A GA may be the first contact a party has with the University and the tone and appearance conveyed during that contact is important. A combination of professional courtesy and common sense is appropriate and expected. This includes attire during assistantship-related activities that is neat, presentable, and appropriate for any expected as well as assigned assistantship tasks.

Most DAs and RAs offer experiences directly relevant and often necessary to graduate students' future employment in their field. Assistants in these positions should use these opportunities, within the context of their assigned tasks, to develop and refine discipline-specific skills and knowledge that will assist in their career development.

### **Assistantship Supervisor Responsibilities**

DA appointments are processed by the department chairperson or graduate program advisor and require the approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. RA appointments are initiated by the research supervisor and generally require the approval of the Dean of the college in which the instruction occurs, the Research Office Coordinator assigned to handle the research account, and the Dean of the Graduate School. AA appointments are initiated by the administrative department and require the approval of the department Supervisor and the Dean of the Graduate School. The Dean or Associate Dean of the Graduate School reviews all appointments prior to the creation of an official award notification.

It is the responsibility of the Graduate Program Advisor or immediate Supervisor to provide the graduate assistant with careful directions regarding his/her assistantship assignment and responsibilities, as well as to monitor the student's performance. Program Advisors or Supervisors are not to expect a Graduate Assistant to exceed the number of hours of work stated on the assistantship award or to ask the Assistant to perform tasks as part of an assistantship that are not appropriate. When shortcomings or weaknesses in performance are identified, the Graduate Assistant will be immediately advised and recommendations for improvement will be provided. A record of such communication should be maintained in the departmental file and a copy sent to the Graduate School.

### **Holiday Policy**

The assigned hours of work for a Graduate Assistant will be reduced proportionally during recognized holidays when the University is closed. For example, if a Graduate Assistant normally works 20 hours per week, but the University is only open three business days for one week, then the Assistant is expected to work 12 hours for that week. Further modifications in the number of hours worked during a holiday period are at the discretion of your immediate Supervisor.

**Please note there are times when classes are not in session but the University is still open, such as during Spring Break, as well as a portion of Thanksgiving and Winter Break, for the most obvious examples.** Do not assume that Graduate Assistants are free from normal assistantship responsibilities just because classes are out. They are told to check with their supervisor/s to see how they would like to handle hours during periods such as these. If the University is open, the holiday policy outlined above does not apply.

### **Resignation/Termination Before End of Appointment**

Graduate Assistantships are contingent upon and subject to satisfactory performance of assigned duties as determined by the assistantship contract and the assistantship Supervisor.

A Graduate Assistant may resign by voluntary, mutual written agreement between the graduate assistant and the assistantship Supervisor. Written notification must be submitted by the Graduate Assistant to the Graduate School indicating the last working day through which the Graduate Assistant is entitled to pay; this must be co-signed by the Supervisor or the Graduate Program Advisor.

Appointments may be terminated for cause before their expiration under certain conditions:

1. Graduate Assistant fails to perform services satisfactorily or violates laws or University regulations
2. Assistant violates provisions of assistantship contract
3. Assistant fails to maintain good academic standing (3.00 minimum GPA or failure to show adequate progress towards degree completion)

Before termination for unsatisfactory work performance, Graduate Assistants must receive from their immediate Supervisors written notice of specific deficiencies in performance, as well as detailed suggestions for improvement. A copy of this notice should be submitted to the Dean of the Graduate School. If unacceptable performance continues, and a decision is made to proceed with possible termination, the Supervisor will notify the Graduate Assistant and the Dean of the Graduate School of the intention to terminate the assistantship. All decisions to terminate an existing assistantship will result from mutual agreement on the part of the Supervisor and the Dean of the Graduate School.

### **FELLOWSHIPS**

Recommendations for fellowships, regardless of the source of funding, should be submitted using a Graduate Student Payroll Authorizations form to the Graduate School. The form should contain any special conditions of the fellowship, including amount and timing of payment(s), as well as reference to the appropriate account number and all of the appropriate signatures from the sponsoring college/department.

### **TUITION SCHOLARSHIPS**

Tuition scholarship awards, based on academic achievement, should also be made on the Graduate Student Payroll Authorization form and should contain the appropriate account number and authorization signature(s). The form should be forwarded to the Graduate School.

The University of Tulsa offers a two-thirds tuition scholarship to all full-time Oklahoma elementary and secondary teachers who qualify for admission to the Graduate School and who wish to enroll on a part-time basis. Teachers who want the two-thirds tuition scholarship must submit the "Educator Tuition Scholarship Application" form, signed by their school's principal, each academic year. The form is available in the Graduate School.

### **MULTIPLE AWARDS FROM DEPARTMENTAL OR RESEARCH FUNDS**

If a student is to receive two awards, such as an assistantship stipend and a tuition scholarship, please make recommendations for the awards simultaneously. In addition, if a student is to receive support for the entire academic year or for the entire calendar year, please recommend all of the awards at one time using a single Graduate Student Payroll Authorization.

Please do not submit a Graduate Student Payroll Authorization Form that crosses fiscal year boundaries. If there is some question concerning the appropriate fiscal year, please contact the Graduate School for clarification.

### **OUTSIDE EMPLOYMENT POLICY FOR GRADUATE ASSISTANTS**

The University of Tulsa considers that a full-time graduate student receiving a 20 hour per week graduate assistantship has a full-time commitment. Any employment in addition to the assistantship is specifically prohibited. A violation of this policy may result in the immediate termination of the assistantship. Any request for an exception to this policy must be submitted in writing to the Graduate Program Advisor and must receive the approval of the Graduate Program Advisor and the Dean of the Graduate School. The supervisor of the graduate assistant should also be informed of the request to work additional hours beyond the assistantship.

International students holding full-time graduate assistantships (20 hours per week) may not accept any other employment, either in or outside the University. Failure to follow this federal requirement can result in substantial penalties for the international student.

## STUDENT TRAVEL GRANTS

### ***CHAPMAN GRADUATE SCHOLAR PRESENTATION AWARD:***

Financial assistance is available for students to present scholarship in a national or international forum to enhance their career opportunities. Any enrolled graduate student that is senior author on an abstract and orally presenting research conducted at The University of Tulsa may apply. Applications for support during an academic year must be submitted by the end of the second week of classes during the fall and spring semesters; for a summer presentation, the request must be submitted by the end of the second week of the spring semester. The presentation must be made prior to your graduation. For most graduate students, the apex of their graduate research for a scholarly presentation usually occurs during the last two semesters of their degree program. Presentations at professional meetings are usually helpful in the acquisition of jobs, or at least interviews for prospective employment. The maximum amount of an individual award will be \$1,000 for master's students and \$1,500 for doctoral students. Students may submit more than one proposal but will receive no more than the allotted maximum in total funding while enrolled in a degree program (i.e., \$1,000 for the master's program and \$1,500 for the doctoral program). For more information, contact The Graduate School, at 918-631-2339.

### ***GRADUATE STUDENT ASSOCIATION (GSA) TRAVEL GRANTS:***

The Graduate Student Association (GSA) provides conference travel funds to the graduate student community. In order to receive funds for conference travel, a student must submit an application to the GSA senate and the student's department must be represented in GSA senate. The student must also be presenting at the conference in order to receive funding. If they are not presenting, they are not eligible for funds. The student must also be the first or second author of the submitted presentation.

Qualified students are eligible to receive funding in the Fall and Spring semesters. Because funding is limited, students should exhaust all other resources for conference travel funding, including the Graduate School's Chapman Presentation Grants, before applying for a GSA travel grant. Funds are dispersed on a first-come, first-served basis. **The maximum amount that can be funded to each student per request is \$400.**

Priority is given to students who have not received funding for conference travel from GSA previously. Students are able to apply for funding for both semesters but they will be given lower priority than those who have not received funding.

Funds will be distributed based on the following criteria: funds available to GSA, cost for conference travel submitted to GSA senate, nature of conference, whether or not the person requesting the funds is presenting (student must be presenting in order to receive funds), location of conference relative to the University of Tulsa, and official conference information (relevant information must be submitted along with application to be considered).

The GSA Research Allocation Committee will meet and make the decision of whether or not to disperse funds for conference travel. Expenses eligible for funding include registration, transportation, food, hotel expenses, and miscellaneous expenses (i.e. baggage expenses).

\*Application information and due dates are available on the GSA website (<https://utulsagsa.wordpress.com>). Students with questions regarding these travel grants can contact the GSA at [grad-sa@utulsa.edu](mailto:grad-sa@utulsa.edu).

### ***STUDENT RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS (OFFICE OF RESEARCH & SPONSORED PROGRAMS):***

The purpose of The University of Tulsa Student Research Grant Program is to provide assistance for students to engage in worthwhile research projects and presentations at



professional meetings that otherwise may not be possible as a result of a lack of financial support. It is also hoped this grant program will open new areas of research, and stimulate more students to engage in research activities and to attend professional meetings.

Any graduate student or undergraduate is eligible to apply for research support under this program provided he or she is enrolled in a course for which credit for research is given. These courses include Independent Study, Research, and Thesis or Dissertation. Students in Arts and Humanities are encouraged to consider the definition of “research” in light of their own discipline. Enrolled students who are involved in TURC or other University sponsored research programs are also eligible.

Doctoral students enrolled in Research and Dissertation are eligible for awards up to \$1,000, with a cap of \$2,000 in total funding as a doctoral student. All other degree seeking students are eligible for individual research awards of up to \$500, with a cap of \$1,000 in total funding while enrolled in a specific degree program. The maximum amount for a group research project is \$1,000. A grant recipient may hold only one grant at a time, but may seek additional support the following semester if the proposed work is completed and a final report has been submitted.

## STATEMENT ON THE APPROPRIATE USE OF GRADUATE ASSISTANTS

The Graduate Council “Policy Statement on the Appropriate Utilization of Graduate Assistants” (March, 1996) is intended to facilitate the interpretation of what constitutes appropriate graduate assistant use and responsibility for all graduate assistants at The University of Tulsa. The Dean of the Graduate School, in consultation with the collegiate deans, assumes the ultimate responsibility for interpretation and administration of the policy statement.

One consideration guiding the activities of assistants is the title and level of their assignment. For the purpose of this policy, graduate student assistants will be broadly classed as “Departmental Assistants” (DAs) or “Research Assistants” (RAs), depending upon their major assigned responsibility and source of funding, whether it be internal or external to the University. In the case of DAs, there is an internal source of funds, and the graduate students are primarily assigned to teaching functions.

All activities directly related to the teaching function and to the satisfactory accomplishment of the teaching process are appropriate duties for the DAs. These activities include research for lecture notes, grading student performance, and other teaching-related activities for the class or classes assigned to the DA. Grading, for example, for the DA’s assigned classes is acceptable. However, grading for a faculty member is not implied or intended **unless** justification for such an activity is provided by the faculty in terms of academic or professional growth on the part of the DA (i.e., conducted with the faculty in an instructional situation).

RAs have the responsibility of performing all tasks related to research for which they have primary responsibility and for which they may possibly receive credit via a single author publication (article, presentation, thesis, etc.). When assisting faculty with research projects, activities should be beneficial in furthering the RA’s knowledge of, and skills in, the research process, and/or which will enhance his/her understanding of the content or object of the research. Activities such as library research on the availability of source material, data collection, statistical analysis, and data processing tasks are examples of appropriate activities.

Use of RAs by faculty, intended or unintended, that is of questionable value to the RA’s understanding of research processes or the content being researched, and that will be primarily of personal or professional benefit to the faculty, is inappropriate. For the preparation of publications or presentations of a scholarly nature, joint efforts between faculty and graduate students are encouraged. However, ethical standards of the discipline should govern the publication credits, and the majority of the RA’s activities should be of educational or professional value to the assistant.

Faculty members may not be aware of other duties that assistants are fulfilling for other faculty members, in cases of multiple faculty assignments. Consequently, when assistants are working with more than one faculty member, one of those faculty members or the Graduate Program Advisor should be responsible for coordinating the assistant’s functions. The role of the coordinator would be to organize the functions of the assistant relative to priority of functions and time constraints. The purpose of this recommended procedure is that the coordinator would be aware of all the responsibilities of the assistant, and a faculty member is in a better position to communicate priorities and time constraints to other faculty than is an assistant.

In all cases, the utilization of graduate student assistants should represent a balance between University, department, or faculty needs and pertinent student learning needs related to their professional academic achievement.

It is imperative that assistants know to whom they should report and the duties for which they are responsible. Assistants’ tasks should be commensurate with their abilities and experience, and their duties should be so structured and designed as to enhance and enrich their

educational experiences. The dual role of student and assistant should be complementary and should provide the assistants with opportunities for learning and for professional enrichment, especially if the apprenticeship is carefully and deliberately designed and effectively administered by faculty and administration.

**APPENDIX A**



# THE UNIVERSITY of TULSA

## CONTRACT FOR GRADE OF INCOMPLETE [Not required for Thesis or Dissertation]

Please make three copies of this form before submitting a grade of “Incomplete” (I) for any student. One copy is for the student, one for the faculty member, and one copy will be filed in the student’s official file in the Graduate School. **International students on student visas must also submit a copy of this form to the International Student Services Office.**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_ I.D. # (Datatel generated): \_\_\_\_\_

Course #: \_\_\_\_\_ Section #: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Semester / Term:     Fall                      Year: \_\_\_\_\_  
                               Spring  
                               Summer

**Extenuating Reason(s) for Incomplete:**

Related to:     Family         Medical         Job-Related     Military     Other

Please explain:

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**Course work required to remove the Incomplete (*specify tasks to be completed*):**

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**If the required work listed above is not submitted, how will the grade be calculated?**

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**Time allowed for completing the work required (*if less than or more than one year after completion of course*):** \_\_\_\_\_

**Signatures:**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Student    Date                      Faculty    Date

“I” grades will be changed to “Z” if not removed by the date stipulated above or within one (1) calendar year of the end of the semester or whichever is later. If someone *other than the original faculty member* will be charged with removing the “I” grade, that person’s signature is required below.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Alternate Faculty Member    Date

# APPROVAL OF THESIS OR DISSERTATION COMMITTEE FORM

STUDENT'S NAME: \_\_\_\_\_ I.D.# \_\_\_\_\_

*Please check the appropriate degree program:*

Ph.D	M.S.	M.S.E.	M.A.	Other
<input type="checkbox"/> Anthropology <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Science <input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> Clinical Psychology <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Science <input type="checkbox"/> English Lang & Lit <input type="checkbox"/> Geosciences <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Organizational Psychology <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Petroleum Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Physics	<input type="checkbox"/> Speech/Language Pathology <input type="checkbox"/> Applied Mathematics <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Science <input type="checkbox"/> Chemistry <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering Physics <input type="checkbox"/> English Lang & Lit <input type="checkbox"/> Geosciences <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial/Organizational Psychology <input type="checkbox"/> Mathematics <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Petroleum Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Physics	<input type="checkbox"/> Chemical Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Computer Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Electrical Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Mechanical Engineering <input type="checkbox"/> Petroleum Engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> Anthropology	<input type="checkbox"/>

Is this request a modification of the committee?     Yes     No

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS:**

	<i>Signature of Chair and any Co-Chair</i>

Any non-Tulsa University faculty committee member must have a vitae/resume attached or on file in the Graduate School Office and be approved for Graduate Faculty status. Individuals with curriculum vitae or resumes that are more than three (3) years old will need to submit a new one and be reviewed for Graduate Faculty status.

Date of Proposal Defense: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Anticipated Thesis/Dissertation Defense: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Anticipated Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_



## REQUEST FOR PREVIOUS DEGREE CREDIT WAIVER

Before requesting the waiver of graduate credit hours for a previous degree, please be sure the following conditions are met.

- ◆ The credits were taken at an accredited graduate school.
- ◆ The credits were completed within the six-year statute of limitations.
- ◆ A grade of B or higher was earned in the courses requested for transfer.
- ◆ The student has completed at least the same number of credit hours at The University of Tulsa with at least a 3.0 grade point average before the request is approved.
- ◆ The course work requested for credit waiver was used to satisfy the requirements for a previous graduate degree.
- ◆ Credit waiver is limited to 30 hours for the doctoral-level student and requires department approval. Any exceptions to these limits require a statement of justification from the advisor explaining the extenuating circumstances.

The student's advisor is responsible for determining the applicability of previous degree work to the student's program. Some advisors may require a copy of the syllabus before the request will be considered. The advisor will make a recommendation on credit waiver of graduate credit to the Graduate School using this form. The completed form must be accompanied by an official transcript of the courses, or a copy of the transcript if the official transcript is already on file in the Graduate School Office. All transfer credit is subject to final approval by the Dean of the Graduate School.

Official Transcript Received by Graduate School?    Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

Student Name	Student's Signature	ID #		
Graduate Program	Graduate Advisor	Advisor's Signature	<b>Recommended</b>	<b>Recommended</b>
<b>University</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Course #</b>	<b>Title</b>
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## **Policy for Use of 5000/7000 Courses**

### **Rationale**

Faculty have requested that the University of Tulsa begin to use 5000 numbers for undergraduate students who want to take 7000-level courses and have those courses count toward their undergraduate degree. We are recruiting some of the best students in the country and many students arrive with advanced placement standing. Providing these exceptional students the potential opportunity to participate in graduate-level classes while still an undergraduate could be a powerful recruiting tool. In addition, students who are doing undergraduate research may need access to specialized courses that are only offered at the graduate level.

### **Credit and Tuition**

Graduate credit would be given for courses at the 6000-level and up and undergraduate credit for courses at the 5000-level and lower. Because undergraduate credit would be earned for a 5000-level course, the student would be charged undergraduate tuition.

### **Implementation**

It is important that certain safeguards be put in place to protect the integrity of the Graduate School and graduate-level courses.

1. A course being taught as a 5000/7000 level may only have a minority of the students at the 5000 level. It is the duty of both the graduate program advisor from the discipline that is offering the 7000-level course and the instructor of the 5000/7000 level course to ensure that the majority enrollment in the course is at the 7000 level.
2. Students who wish to take 5000-level courses must have at least a 3.0 cumulative GPA, a minimum of a 3.5 GPA in the college in which the major resides, and at least junior standing.
3. Students would need to have the signature of their undergraduate advisor, instructor of the 5000/7000-level course, and the graduate program advisor from the discipline offering the 7000-level course.
4. Appeals from students that were denied admission to a 5000-level course must be submitted to the chair of the department in which the course resides. In no case will a student be admitted to a 5000-level course without permission of the instructor.
5. Students in a 5000-level course must meet all the requirements and complete all the assignments for the course, the same as required for the graduate students in the 7000-level course. The undergraduate students are evaluated in exactly the same way as the graduate students in that course. If the undergraduate students are not strong enough to be evaluated in this way, they should not take the 5000-level course. This is not a two-tiered system of evaluation as is found in 4000/6000 level courses.
6. Undergraduate colleges or departments may choose to not participate in the use of 5000 numbering, and may choose to be selective in which 7000-level courses will be given 5000-level numbers.
7. Students may not receive credit at the 5000-level and then later retake the same course at the 7000 level.

### **Numbering**

If possible, each 5000-level number will correspond to the last three digits to the appropriate 7000-level number. No 5000-level number should exist without a corresponding 7000-level course. No 5000-level course will be created that corresponds to an 8000 or 9000-level course. These course numbers are used exclusively for doctoral level courses and it is inappropriate to have advanced undergraduate students in these higher-level courses.



## **Graduate Course Proposal Guidelines**

A proposal for a new course to the Graduate Council must include the nine items listed below.

- A. Course title and requested number
- B. Proposer's name, department, and contact information
- C. Whether the course is required or an elective, and for which program(s).
- D. May the course be taken by students outside the discipline? If no, why?
- E. A rationale for the course offering: Why should this new course be added to the department's offerings?
- F. Effect on resources: How often will the course be offered? How does it fit into the current rotation of graduate courses in the department? Who will teach the course? Does it require a special classroom or additional classroom space not currently available?
- G. Approvals: Does the proposed course have the approval of the academic unit? A memo or email message from the unit chair or meeting minutes indicating approval will be sufficient. If the course is cross-listed at the undergraduate level, does the undergraduate course have approval from the undergraduate curriculum committee?
- H. A syllabus meeting the Graduate Syllabus Guidelines
- I. A Course Assessment Plan that maps the student learning objectives for the course to the degree program objectives, and demonstrates how the student learning objectives will be measured and assessed.

## Graduate Syllabus Guidelines

Items with an \* are required for a course proposal to the Graduate Council. All items should be on a syllabus distributed to students on the first day of class. Other items may be included as appropriate for the course.

1. **Identifying information:** \*name of course, \*department, meeting times (include detail related to the \*method (s) used to interface with students such as online, face-to-face classes, labs or any type of meeting in a nontraditional classroom setting), place of class meeting, \*name of instructor, phone/email/website; availability of instructor (office hours or times for contact, etc)
2. **\*Course description** (include the catalog description as minimum summary) **and prerequisites**
3. **\*Student learning objectives** (i.e. *At the end of this course the student will demonstrate the following knowledge or skills etc*)

Include the types of performance measures in which the student will be assessed:

*The student will demonstrate the knowledge and skills listed above through exams, papers, projects, etc.*

4. **\*Required/recommended text**
5. **\*Outside readings:** include at least a partial list and where the readings will be available (if applicable)
6. **\*Evaluation:** describe requirements and the points associated with each (i.e. exams, projects, class participation, etc); additionally, clearly delineate how the performance measures and grading will differ between the 4000 and 6000 levels of the course, if applicable.
7. **Class policies:** attendance; lost/missing/late work; classroom etiquette (be on time; phones, etc), use of Harvey, etc.
8. **Academic misconduct:** include the link to the Graduate School Academic Misconduct Policy of The University of Tulsa as found here: [http://www.utulsa.edu/academics/colleges/Graduate-School/Current-Student-Information/Graduate School Academic Misconduct Policy.aspx](http://www.utulsa.edu/academics/colleges/Graduate-School/Current-Student-Information/Graduate%20School%20Academic%20Misconduct%20Policy.aspx).

When creating syllabi for cross-listed courses at the 4000 or 5000 level, also list the Academic Misconduct Policy relevant to the professor's home college on the undergraduate version of the syllabi. The graduate syllabi must refer to the Graduate School Academic Misconduct Policy link listed above.

It is also recommended that the instructor include at least the minimum penalty for misconduct in each syllabus; e.g. at a minimum, students who cheat will receive "no credit" (a score of zero) on the assignment in question; but students may also be dismissed from the course and automatically assigned a grade of F.

**\*NOTE:** *Do not make references to the Student Handbook on the course syllabus. This document does not contain any information regarding policies for petitions or academic misconduct inquiries and should not be included on academic documents.*

9. **Center for Student Academic Support:** Include this statement from Dr. Taylor at CSAS:  
Students with disabilities should contact the Center for Student Academic Support to self-identify their needs in order to facilitate their rights under the Americans with Disabilities Act and Amendments and set up appropriate accommodations. All students are encouraged to familiarize themselves with and take advantage of services provided by CSAS, including tutoring, academic counseling, and developing study skills. CSAS also provides confidential consultations to any student with academic concerns.
10. **Title IX Language:** Include the following Title IX language on all syllabi:

### KNOW YOUR IX

Sexual misconduct is prohibited by Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 ("Title IX") and will not be tolerated within the TU community. Sexual misconduct encompasses all forms of sex and gender-based discrimination, harassment, violence, and assault, as well as dating violence, domestic violence, interpersonal violence, stalking and sexual exploitation. If you or someone you know has been harassed, assaulted, or

stalked, or if you have questions about violence prevention resources available to you, please contact any of the following campus and community resources:

Title IX Coordinator 918-631-4602

Office of Violence Prevention 918-631-2324

TU Counseling and Psychological Services 918- 631-2241

Campus Security 918-631-5555

Domestic Violence Intervention Services 918-585-3163 or 918-743-5763

Tulsa Police Department 918-596-9222 or 911 (emergency situations)

For more information about your rights under Title IX, please visit our *Policies and Laws* page on the TU website or contact the Title IX Coordinator. ***Every student on our campus has the right to resources.*** Please come forward and ask questions, report, and help us eradicate sexual misconduct and interpersonal violence by stopping the silence surrounding it.

11. **\*Course outline** (tentative timeline of topics): date and time of the final exam must be included on the syllabus so that students may plan accordingly for the end of the semester.

## Course Assessment Plan Office of Continuous Improvement

A. Complete the Course Assessment Plan and submit the plan with your course proposal.

<b>Faculty Name</b>	
<b>Course Prefix and Number</b>	
<b>Course Title</b>	
<b>Degree Program or Certificate Course</b>	

B. List the course student learning outcomes (SLOs) and align them with the Degree Program Outcomes and Institutional Outcomes. Institutional Learning Outcomes are located in **Appendix A** at the end of the Course Assessment Plan.

**Example:**

<b>Student Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Degree Program Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Institutional Learning Outcomes</b>
Develop solutions for social and cultural problems through the application of Sociological theories.	Apply tools of analysis and critical thinking to understand problems related to human behavior.	ILO 1, ILO 2, ILO 3, and ILO 5

**Complete Course Student Learning Outcomes Alignment (add rows as needed)**

<b>Student Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Degree Program Learning Outcomes</b>	<b>Institutional Learning Outcomes</b>

C. Complete the course assessment map. List each learning activity and align it with the associated student learning outcome. Briefly describe the assessment measure/assignment and the achievement benchmark/criterion for success. The achievement benchmark can be evaluated by an assignment grade or rubric criteria. For example, 90% of students will achieve a C or higher or 90% of students will meet category 4 rubric expectations or higher.

**Example:**

<b>Learning Activity</b>	<b>Assessment Measure (Assignment Details)</b>	<b>Associated SLOs</b>	<b>Criterion for Success</b>
Social and Cultural Problem-Solving Paper	Students will investigate social and cultural problems in the Tulsa community. Through theory application, students will identify solutions that address real-life problems. Students will be graded on written communication, oral presentation, and knowledge of historical and social issues, critical thinking, theory application, and problem-solving skills.	SLO 1, SLO 2, SLO 3, and SLO 5	85% of students will achieve a 3 or meets expectations (rubric criteria) or higher on each SLO.

**Complete Course Assessment Map (add rows as needed)**

<b>Learning Activity</b>	<b>Assessment Measure (Assignment Details)</b>	<b>Associated SLOs</b>	<b>Criterion for Success</b>

### **Institutional Learning Outcomes**

ILO1: Demonstrate literacy through informed inquiry and application of knowledge in the sciences, humanities, and arts.

ILO2: Think critically by analyzing, synthesizing, and evaluating information.

ILO3: Write and present clearly, practicing the skills of effective communication across the curriculum.

ILO4: Recognize ethical dilemmas and determine how best to respond to them.

ILO5: Apply knowledge and talents to identify and address real world problems in the local or global community.