FACULTY SENATE ISSUE FORM

Date Submitted: 12/2/2022

Title of Issue (a short descriptive title by which the issue may be referenced)

Continuance

Description of Issue:

The Graduate Administrators' Council (GAC) recommended changes to the Continuance Policy to clarify deadlines for requesting reinstatement (allowed exceptions to timeline), how courses older than 8 years must be recertified when reinstated, and how the GPD must approve requests for reactivation (for students who do not register within a year). Also, a new cause for dismissal was added: "unprofessional or unethical behavior as a graduate assistant, student intern, student clinician, etc. Gender neutral language was added.

Rational for Submission:

The suggested edits address concerns raised with interpretating policy and to address gaps in policy (e.g., inappropriate behaviors that GAC feels are reasons for dismissal that are not directly governed by previous continuance and student conduct policies.

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Name: Robert Wojtowicz

Department: Academic Affairs

Robert Wojtowicz

Date: 12/02/2022

Signature:

For Faculty Senate Use Only

Assigned to Committee:

Date Assigned:

Continuance

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The following actions affect a student's continuance:

- Probation occurs when a student's grade point average (GPA) falls below 3.00.
- Suspension occurs when a student is unable to raise the GPA above 3.00 within the next 12 credit hours taken, thus preventing the student from registering for additional courses; reinstatement from suspension occurs only if the student is permitted to return to the graduate program after submitting an approved plan of study.
- Separation occurs when a student withdraws voluntarily from a graduate program.
- Deactivation occurs when a student fails to register for three or more consecutive semesters without permission or an approved leave of absence.
- Dismissal may occur for a variety of academic reasons or for infractions committed against the Code of Student Conduct.

Students who are placed on probation are still eligible to participate in all extracurricular activities as governed by the rules of the specific activity. However, students who are separated, deactivated, suspended, or dismissed from a graduate program are ineligible to participate in any extracurricular activities.

Probation, Suspension and Reinstatement

Degree-Seeking Students

A degree-seeking-student is defined as one who is formally admitted into a graduate program at either the master's, education specialist, or doctoral levels. At the end of each semester – fall, spring, and summer – the record of a degree-seeking student who does not maintain a 3.00 cumulative grade point average (GPA) is reviewed. A student who does not have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 will be placed on probation.

Probation and Suspension Policy for Degree-Seeking Students

A degree-seeking student on probation will have 12 credit hours to raise their cumulative GPA to 3.00. The student and Graduate Program Director should meet to discuss a plan for earning the return to good standing. The student must achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.00 after completing the next 12 credit hours. If not, they will be placed on indefinite suspension and prevented from enrolling in graduate courses. This does not affect the student's status with regard to undergraduate courses.

A student who believes the probation or suspension was due to an error in a grade assigned should contact their instructor. +

Early Suspension for Degree-Seeking Students

If the Graduate Program Director determines the student cannot mathematically raise the GPA to 3.00 within 12 hours, the limit for degree-seeking students, they may discuss with the student whether an early suspension is warranted. If so, with the student's written approval, the Graduate Program Director can request early suspension in writing to the Dean of the Graduate School, so that the student may consider reinstatement options.

Reinstatement from Suspension Policy for Degree-Seeking Students

A degree-seeking student who has been suspended from a graduate program may be reinstated under the following conditions:

- 1. The student is responsible for initiating each of the following aspects of the request for reinstatement to the university:
 - a. Providing to the GPD of the program that the student is seeking to either continue enrollment or to be newly admitted a written explanation and documentation of the factors and circumstances that contributed to the failure to achieve the academic standards as well as evidence that these issues have been resolved. Students should also explain why they will subsequently succeed if reinstated. Moreover, students who wish to maintain confidentiality regarding special medical or other personal issues, must obtain a letter from the Office of Student Outreach Services (SOS) certifying their validity and contribution to the suspension and that these issues have been or will be satisfactorily resolved prior to the reinstatement.
 - b. Requesting the reinstatement within 45 calendar days of the suspension unless a later request with appropriate justification is approved by both the graduate program director and Dean of the Graduate School or designee (if the student is pursuing a grade appeal that may overturn the suspension, the grade appeal procedures are to be followed first until a decision is reached on that appeal; if the appeal is denied and suspension upheld, then the student has 45 calendar days to initiate a reinstatement request).
 - c. Developing a plan of study in consultation with the appropriate Graduate Program Director (GPD) of the program that the student is seeking to either continue enrollment or to be newly admitted. The plan of study must specify the initial 12 credit hours to be taken and the steps necessary to complete the degree requirements within the eight-year (master's) and the eight-year (education specialist and doctoral) time period as required by University policy. This plan should recognize that all prior courses in which grades of B- or less were earned must be repeated or replaced with an approved substitution. If reinstated, the student's GPA will revert to 0.00 and courses with a grade of B or above that were earned within the past eight years will be treated as internal transfer credit and have no bearing on the GPA. Courses older than eight years must be recertified prior to internal transfer credit being awarded. Upon reinstatement, the student must achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 in the next 12 credit hours of graduate credit attempted.

- 2. The GPD is responsible for each of the following steps of the request for reinstatement:
 - a. Reviewing the student's letter and any written documentation the student provides, assisting in the development of the proposed plan of study, and assessing the student's potential for successful completion of the program.
 - b. Assessing the potential impact of reinstatement on departmental resources.
 - c. Submitting a recommendation on the student's request to the department chair either approving reinstatement and the plan of study for the student's return, or providing justifications for denying reinstatement and/or the plan of study. Specifically, the GPD's evaluation must address the reasonableness of i) the proposed plan of study; ii) the potential for successful completion of the program, and, iii) the potential impact of reinstatement on departmental resources. (Note: The GPD and the chair must agree for the student to be reinstated at the department level.)
- 3. If reinstatement is approved, the student will be informed in writing and the steps outlined in 1.a. and 1.b. of this policy shall be followed. A copy of the letter and the approved plan of study shall be forwarded to the Graduate School. The Graduate School will work with the Office of the Registrar to ensure the academic record is updated so the student may resume their study.
- 4. Upon reinstatement:
 - a. All courses with grades of B- (2.70) or below will be dropped from consideration in the calculation of the grade point average for continuance or graduation. These grades will remain on the student's transcript, but the courses will not be counted toward the degree.
 - b. Courses with grades of B or above may be counted toward the degree if they were earned within the last eight years or have been recertified but will not be used in the calculation of the GPA.
 - c. Reinstated students must achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 upon completion of the next 12 hours of credit attempted. Subsequent performance will be monitored by the GPD.
- 5. If the student's request for reinstatement is denied, the student must be informed in writing by the graduate program director. The GPD's denial must address the lack of reasonableness of i) the proposed plan of study, ii) the potential for successful completion of the program, iii) the potential impact of reinstatement on departmental resources, and iv) the right to appeal and the policy for appealing. A copy of the letter shall be forwarded to the Graduate School along with original materials submitted by the student.
- 6. The student has the right to appeal the decision to the Graduate Appeals Committee. The student must resubmit the written letter and documentation as outlined in 1.a. and 1.b. to the Graduate School within 45 calendar days of the Graduate Program Director's letter denying reinstatement. The Graduate School will forward the materials to the Graduate Appeals Committee. The Graduate Appeals Committee will review the documentation, including the student's reinstatement request, plan of study, and Graduate Program Director's assessment of the plan of study. The Committee may seek additional

information from the program or student to aid its review. The Graduate Appeals Committee will render its decision and inform the Graduate School. The Graduate School will send a letter to the student, with a copy to the GPD, informing him or her of the Graduate Appeals Committee's decision. If the Graduate Appeals Committee supports the GPD's original decision, the student shall remain separated from the program. If the Graduate Appeals Committee approves reinstatement, the steps outlined in 1.a. of this policy shall be followed. The decision of the Graduate Appeals Committee is final.

7. A student may be reinstated only one time to the same academic program.

Non-Degree-Seeking Students

A non-degree-seeking student may fall into one of two categories: one who is pursuing a specific certificate or licensure program or one who is unaffiliated with a specific program.

Probation and Suspension Policy for Certificate or Licensure Students

A student who has been permitted to pursue a certificate or licensure program must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00. If the student fails to do so, the student will be placed on probation. The student and the certificate director or the licensure director, or the graduate program director should meet to discuss a plan for returning to good standing. The student must raise their cumulative GPA to 3.00 within the remaining allotted hours (not to exceed 12 credits). A student who fails to achieve a cumulative GPA of 3.00 after these remaining hours will be indefinitely suspended and prevented from enrolling in graduate courses. This does not affect the student's status with regard to undergraduate courses.

Early Suspension for Certificate or Licensure Students

If the director determines the student cannot mathematically raise the GPA to 3.00 within the remaining allotted hours (not to exceed 12 credits), then the director may discuss with the student whether an immediate suspension is warranted. If so, with the student's written approval, the director can request immediate suspension in writing to the dean of the Graduate School so that the student may consider reinstatement options.

Reinstatement from Suspension Policy for Certificate or Licensure Students

A suspended certificate or licensure graduate student seeking reinstatement should follow the procedures outlined earlier in this policy under the Reinstatement Policy for Degree-Seeking Students with the exception that the student's plan of study must specify the initial six credit hours (not 12) to be taken. Upon reinstatement, the student must achieve a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00 in the next six credit hours of graduate credit attempted. A student may be reinstated only one time to the same certificate or licensure program.

Probation and Suspension Policy for Unaffiliated Students

An unaffiliated student must maintain a cumulative GPA of at least 3.00. If not, the student is strongly advised to seek guidance from the Graduate School staff. The student must achieve a 3.00 by the completion of 12 hours. If not, the student will be indefinitely suspended and

prevented from enrolling in graduate courses. This does not affect the student's status with regard to undergraduate courses. Unaffiliated students may not be reinstated as unaffiliated students but may return to graduate courses if admitted to a degree program.

Early Suspension for Certificate or Unaffiliated Students

If the student cannot mathematically raise the GPA to 3.00 within the remaining allotted hours (not to exceed 12 credits) then the Graduate School staff may discuss with the student whether an immediate suspension is warranted. If so, with the student's written approval, the dean of the Graduate School may initiate immediate suspension.

Separation and Deactivation from a Graduate Program

A student may separate voluntarily from a graduate program at any time by notifying the graduate program director in writing.

If a student fails to register for three or more consecutive semesters, without prior approval from the graduate program director, their graduate status will be deactivated. To reactivate their graduate status, a student must submit a request in writing to the graduate program director and the Office of Graduate Admissions. The graduate program director must approve the student's request for reactivation to be processed.

Dismissal from a Graduate Program

A degree-seeking student's dismissal from a graduate program may occur for one or more of the following reasons:

- 1. Failure to maintain good academic standing based on minimum University grade point average (GPA) requirements following reinstatement (see Policy on Probation, Suspension and Reinstatement in the Graduate Catalog above);
- 2. Failure to maintain good academic standing based on specific program requirements (see specific program handbook);
- 3. Plagiarism, falsification of data, and/or other instances of academic dishonesty (see the Code of Student Conduct and/or the Policy for Responding to Allegations of Misconduct in Scientific Research and Scholarly Activity);
- 4. Inability to meet specific technical requirements (see specific program handbook);
- 5. Failure to pass a required examination or meet a program benchmark as determined by the appropriate review committee (see specific program handbook);
- 6. Failure to maintain satisfactory progress on a thesis or dissertation as determined by the designated thesis or dissertation committee (see specific program handbook);
- 7. Unprofessional and/or unethical behavior as a graduate assistant, student intern, student clinician, student teacher, student worker, or other University-affiliated role (see the University Code of Ethics and applicable standards); and/or
- 8. Any behavior that may involve criminal activity, that may pose a threat to the health or safety of the University community, that may infringe upon the rights or property of

others in the University community, and/or that may breach the peace of the University community (see the Code of Student Conduct).

A student must be informed of their dismissal from a graduate program in writing by the graduate program director (GPD). The letter provides reasons for dismissal and information about appealing per the policy in this section.

A copy of the dismissal letter shall also be sent to the dean administering the program or their designee, the Graduate School, and, if relevant, the Office of Visa and Immigration Service Advising. All units notified, including the student, should also receive a copy of the Notice of Student Separation of Dismissal from Program form. Except in cases involving probation and suspension, the Code of Student Conduct, and/or the Policy for Responding to Allegations of Scientific Misconduct in Scientific Research and Scholarly Activity, a student may appeal their dismissal from a graduate program in writing to the dean or their designee within 45 calendar days of the Graduate Program Director's dated letter notifying the student of dismissal. If dissatisfied with the decision of the dean administering the program or their designee, a student may appeal their dismissal from a graduate program in writing with the Graduate Appeals Committee by submitting a Student Appeal Request Form to the Graduate School. The student is also responsible for submitting all documents related to the dismissal (e.g., copies of decision letters by the GPD and dean and dismissal forms) with the official appeal. The student must submit their appeal of the dean or designee's decision for dismissal within 14 calendar days of the decision letter.

If the original dismissal decision is based in full or in part on a course grade and that grade is being appealed, the student follows procedures for a grade appeal until that decision is rendered. If the dismissal status is unaffected by the grade appeal results (e.g., the appeal is denied, or the overturned grade does not alter the program's dismissal decision), the student must then follow procedures for dismissal appeal, beginning with a maximum of 45 calendar days from the grade appeal decision letter to when the dismissal appeal is received by the dean or designee.

The Graduate Appeals Committee will review materials submitted by the student. It may also seek additional information from the program or student to aid its review. The Committee will render its decision and inform the Graduate School. The Graduate School will send a letter to the student, with a copy to the GPD and dean's office, informing him or her of the Graduate Appeals Committee's decision. If the Graduate Appeals Committee supports the GPD's original decision, the student shall remain separated from the program. If the Graduate Appeals Committee approves reinstatement, the GPD shall work out a plan of study with the student that guides him or her to the successful completion of the program. The decision of the Graduate Appeals Committee is final.

A student's dismissal shall ordinarily remain in effect for eight years before they may seek readmission to the same graduate program at the master's level or for eight years before they may seek readmission to the same graduate program at the education specialist or doctoral levels. If the student seeks readmission to the same program after eight years and is accepted, they will work with the program to recertify courses for which a grade of B or better was

awarded for those credits to count toward the degree as transfer credits. Their GPA will be reset to zero as a student returning from reinstatement (see policy Readmission to the Institution Following Separation or Dismissal). A student may appeal dismissal only one time for the same program.

Continuance

The following minimum requirements govern a student's continuance in a graduate program. A student is also obligated to meet all additional requirements as delineated in the handbook of the student's graduate program.

The following actions affect a student's continuance:

- Probation occurs when a student's grade point average (GPA) falls below 3.00.
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- 4. Upon reinstatement:
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Dismissal from a Graduate Program

A degree-seeking student's dismissal from a graduate program may occur for one or more of the following reasons:

- Failure to maintain good academic standing based on minimum University grade point average (GPA) requirements following reinstatement (see Policy on Probation, Suspension and Reinstatement in the Graduate Catalog above);
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- 8. Any behavior that may involve criminal activity, that may pose a threat to the health or safety of the University community, that may infringe upon the rights or property of

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A copy of the dismissal letter shall also be sent to the dean administering the program or their designee, the Graduate School, and, if relevant, the Office of Visa and Immigration Service Advising. All units notified, including the student, should also receive a copy of the Notice of Student Separation of Dismissal from Program form. Except in cases involving probation and suspension, the Code of Student Conduct, and/or the Policy for Responding to Allegations of Scientific Misconduct in Scientific Research and Scholarly Activity, a student may appeal their dismissal from a graduate program in writing to the dean or their designee within 45 calendar days of the Graduate Program Director's dated letter notifying the student of dismissal. If dissatisfied with the decision of the dean administering the program or their designee, a student may appeal their dismissal from a graduate program in writing with the Graduate Appeals Committee by submitting a Student Appeal Request Form to the Graduate School. The student is also responsible for submitting all documents related to the dismissal (e.g., copies of decision letters by the GPD and dean and dismissal forms) with the official appeal. The student must submit their appeal of the dean or designee's decision for dismissal within 14 calendar days of the decision letter.

If the original dismissal decision is based in full or in part on a course grade and that grade is being appealed, the student follows procedures for a grade appeal until that decision is rendered. If the dismissal status is unaffected by the grade appeal results (e.g., the appeal is denied, or the overturned grade does not alter the program's dismissal decision), the student must then follow procedures for dismissal appeal, beginning with a maximum of 45 calendar days from the grade appeal decision letter to when the dismissal appeal is received by the dean or designee.

The Graduate Appeals Committee will review materials submitted by the student. It may also seek additional information from the program or student to aid its review. The Committee will render its decision and inform the Graduate School. The Graduate School will send a letter to the student, with a copy to the GPD and dean's office, informing him or her of the Graduate Appeals Committee's decision. If the Graduate Appeals Committee supports the GPD's original decision, the student shall remain separated from the program. If the Graduate Appeals Committee approves reinstatement, the GPD shall work out a plan of study with the student that guides him or her to the successful completion of the program. The decision of the Graduate Appeals Committee is final.

A student's dismissal shall ordinarily remain in effect for eight years before they may seek readmission to the same graduate program at the master's level or for eight years before they may seek readmission to the same graduate program at the education specialist or doctoral levels. If the student seeks readmission to the same program after eight years and is accepted, they will work with the program to recertify courses for which a grade of B or better was

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awarded for those credits to count toward the degree as transfer credits. Their GPA will be reset to zero as a student returning from reinstatement (see policy Readmission to the Institution Following Separation or Dismissal). A student may appeal dismissal only one time for the same



Notice of Student Separation or Dismissal from Program G8

The Graduate School

Student's Name:	UIN	#:
College:	Degree and Program:	
Graduate Academic Advisor,if assign	ned:	
Select one of the following: <i>Voluntary Separation: Please attach</i> approval is required in the signature	a copy of the student's written request. One area below.	nly the Graduate Program Director's
1 The student listed above h	nas submitted a request in writing to be vol	untarily separated from the program.
	iustification and a copy of the notification proved by the Graduate Program Director,	•
2 The student listed above reasons:	has been involuntarily dismissed from his	or her program for one of the following
Failure to maintain good acc requirements following reinstateme	ademic standing based on minimum Univer ent	rsity grade point average (GPA)
Failure to maintain good aca	demic standing based on specific program	requirements
Plagiarism, falsification of da	ata, and/or other instances of academic disl	honesty
Inability to meet specific tec	hnical requirements	
Failure to pass a required ex review committee	camination or meet other program benchm	ark(s) as determined by the appropriate
Failure to maintain satisfact dissertation committee	ory progress on a thesis or dissertation as o	determined by the designated thesis or
•	thical behavior as a graduate assistant, st or other University-affiliated role (see f ds	
Any behavior that may invol community, that may infringe upon breach the peace of the University c	lve criminal activity, that may pose a threat the rights or property of others in the Univ	to the health or safety of the University ersity community, and/or that may
Date of Separation or Dismissal fro	om the Program:	(MM/DD/YYYY)
Graduate Program Director's Name	Graduate Program Director's Signature	Date
Department Chair's Name	Department Chair's Signature	Date
Dean or Dean's Designee's Name	Dean or Dean's Designee's Signature	Date

Please send electronically to the Graduate School at graduateschool@odu.edu. Copies Graduate Program Director