



University of
Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

**University Council on Graduate Study Minutes
Tuesday, April 8, 2025**

The March meeting minutes were approved with 14 in favor, 0 opposed, and 7 abstentions. 8 members arrived after the minutes were approved.

Academic Policy Review

Academic Standing

The revised Academic Standing policy was presented by VP Godley for discussion. Council members discussed and concluded that three changes would improve the draft. Those changes include: 1) Rather than focusing on cumulative GPA, which means a calculation of the GPA for the entire graduate career, instead change the policy to focus on “cumulative GPA in the program in which they are enrolled. 2) In the last sentence of academic program change the word “will” to “may” to provide some flexibility. 3) Modify the last sentence to allow students who are dismissed to reapply if the school chooses: “A student who receives Academic Dismissal may be ineligible for readmission to the school or program that placed them on Academic Dismissal.”

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the policy be approved with the stated changes made. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval (23 in favor, 0 opposed, and 3 abstentions).

Advanced Standing Credits

The revised Advanced Standing policy was presented by VP Godley for discussion. Council members discussed three modifications. Those changes include: 1) A question was raised concerning how many graduate credits taken while the student is an undergrad at another institution are accepted as advanced standing in a Pitt graduate program. The discussion discovered a wide variation of viewpoints and existing practices, but further investigation showed that it is very rare for a program to accept any graduate advanced standing credits of this nature. 2) Council members suggested that schools or units may have additional limitations or guidance on the graduate-level credits taken while the student is enrolled as an undergraduate that can apply to a Pitt graduate or professional degree or program. This is covered by the exceptions clause in paragraph 1 and unit-level decisions about course equivalencies. 3) Clarify that the 50% maximum advanced standing credits are 50% of the credits required for the degree and not 50% of the credits the student take. 3) Remove the following sentence: “It is recommended that the maximum number of advanced standing credits applied toward completion of master’s, certificate and micro credential programs not exceed 20% of the credits needed for the credential or program.”



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A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the policy be approved with the stated changes made. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval (20 in favor, 0 opposed, and 2 abstentions).

Course Repeat

The revised Course Repeat policy was presented by VP Godley for discussion. Council members did not raise any questions or points for discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the policy be approved with the stated changes made. Members present voted unanimously in favor of recommending approval (23 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions).

Incomplete Grades

The revised Incomplete Grades policy was presented by VP Godley for discussion. Council members did not raise any questions or points for discussion.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the policy be approved with the stated changes made. Members present voted in favor of recommending approval (22 in favor, 0 opposed, and 1 abstention).

Distance and Online Learning Pitt Definitions

A new Distance and Online Learning Pitt Definitions policy was presented by VP Godley for discussion. This policy focuses on the program as a whole and not about individual courses. Information about course attributes can be found at <https://www.registrar.pitt.edu/course-attributes> under Instructional Delivery Method. Council members also asked a question to clarify how they are permitted to market a program as hybrid and suggested the policy is reviewed by the Office of International Services. Council did not conclude any recommendations for change.

A motion was made and seconded to recommend to the Provost that the policy be approved with the stated changes made. Members present voted unanimously in favor of recommending approval (20 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions).

Announcements

There were no announcements.

The meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm.



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Attendance

Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Grad Faculty	Marc	Coutanche
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Grad Faculty	Peng	Liu
Dietrich School of Arts and Sciences	Grad Faculty	Jonathan	Woon
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs	Grad Faculty	Luke	Condra
Katz Graduate School of Business	Grad Faculty	Sara	Moeller
Office of the Provost	Chair	Amanda	Godley
Office of the Provost	Staff	Jennifer	Walker
School of Dental Medicine	Grad Student	Dylan	Baxter
School of Dental Medicine	Grad Faculty	Dobrawa	Napierala
School of Computing and Information	Grad Faculty	James	Joshi
School of Education	Grad Student	Gerard	Dorve-Lewis
School of Education	Grad Faculty	Michael	Gunzenhauser
School of Education	Grad Faculty	Linda	DeAngelo
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Student	Abdulmohsen	Alroumi
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Faculty	Mark	DeRuiter
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Faculty	Ketki	Raina
School of Medicine	Grad Student	Brooke	Dresden
School of Medicine	Grad Faculty	Arjumand	Ghazi
School of Medicine	Grad Faculty	Saleem	Khan
School of Medicine	Grad Faculty	Tija	Jacob
School of Nursing	Grad Student	Myeong-ga	Cho
School of Nursing	Grad Faculty	Elizabeth	Schlenk
School of Pharmacy	Grad Faculty	Kerry	Empey
School of Pharmacy	Grad Stud sub	Pooja	Rajadhyaksha
School of Public Health	Grad Faculty	Ying	Ding
SEPC	Grad Faculty	Michelle	Schein
School of Social Work	Grad Faculty	Suzanne	Pritzker
Swanson School of Engineering	Grad Student	Yousra	Bensouda
Swanson School of Engineering	Grad Faculty	Bryan	Brown
Swanson School of Engineering	Grad Faculty	Bob	Parker

Additional attendees: None