



University of
Pittsburgh

Office of the Provost
Graduate Studies

**University Council on Graduate Study Minutes
Tuesday, November 11, 2024**

The October meeting minutes were approved with 20 in favor, 3 abstentions. 9 members arrived after the minutes were approved.

Academic Policy Review

Three revisions to existing Academic Policies were presented by VP Godley for discussion.

G Grades

The G Grades policy would be amended to change the G grade into an I grade and add a lapse grade option as a default should the I grade deadline expire. Allowances for special circumstances will remain in the new policy.

Council discussion raised questions about how schools currently use I grades, as well as a request to develop a plan for how G/I grades currently in process should be managed. Additional feedback was offered, and a final version of the guideline will be discussed at a future meeting.

Academic Probation/Suspension/Dismissal

The new Academic Probation/Suspension/Dismissal policy would expand upon the existing policy which applies to undergraduate students to include graduate students. The terminology throughout the policy has been edited to be less punitive, and an additional step, “academic leave”, was added between probation and dismissal. This policy would be on the current edge of best practices with AAU peer institutions.

Council discussion centered around measuring student progress at the doctoral level; points were also raised about the length of some master’s programs as pertains to this policy and the allowance for schools to enforce stricter policies.

Suggestion to amend the new policy to require two formal steps: “academic warning” and “dismissal”, with allowance for, at the discretion of the Dean and faculty, other possible steps such as academic leave, suspension, and academic review, was favored by a straw poll of Council. A revised version of the policy will be reviewed at a future meeting.

Course Repeat Policy

The new Course Repeat Policy is an effort to separate policy from procedure and clarify how many times a student can repeat a course for an improved grade.



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Council discussed the proposed changes, including clarification of the language to differentiate between undergrad and graduate course structures and how overall course credits are counted with multiple repeat attempts. Further discussion included how schools and advisors can best counsel students through retaking a course and how to support students' understanding of the financial aid process as they enroll in retake courses.

No vote was taken at this meeting.

Presentation of Admissions and Enrollment Data for Fall 2024

VP Godley presented data about graduate enrollment and admissions as of Fall 2024. The data did not include numbers from the School of Medicine. The Pitt2Pitt scholarship was raised by Council and how the University evaluates the impact of this scholarship on yields; the OTP data team is confirmed to be working on that topic. An invitation was extended to schools who would like to join the conversation about how to isolate the effect of Pitt2Pitt in the data; please reach out to Stephanie Hoogendoorn.

Announcements

There were no announcements.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:45 pm.



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Attendance

School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Student	Abdulmohsen	Alroumi
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
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs	Grad Student	Michaela	Cushing Daniels
Graduate School of Public and International Affairs	Grad Student	Zena	Kesselman
Katz Graduate School of Business	Grad Student	Denise	Bergdolt
Office of the Provost	Chair	Amanda	Godley
Office of the Provost	Staff	Courtney	Syskowski
Office of the Registrar, Observer	Staff	Jonathan	Helm
School of Computing and Information	Grad Student	Sai Vivek	Chava
School of Dental Medicine	Grad Faculty	Dobrawa	Napierala
School of Education	Grad Faculty	Michael	Gunzenhauser
School of Education	Grad Faculty	Linda	DeAngelo
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Faculty	Mark	DeRuiter
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Faculty	Michael	Dickey
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences	Grad Faculty	Ketki	Raina
School of Medicine	Grad Student	Brooke	Dresden
School of Medicine	Grad Faculty	Tija	Jacob
School of Medicine	Grad Faculty	Arjumand	Ghazi
School of Medicine	Grad Faculty	Saleem	Khan
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 Student	Christina	Kazarov
School of Public Health	Grad Faculty	Ying	Ding
School of Social Work	Grad Faculty	Sara	Goodkind
SEPC	Grad Faculty	Michelle	Schein
Swanson School of Engineering	Grad Student	Yousra	Bensouda
Swanson School of Engineering	Grad Faculty	Bryan	Brown
Swanson School of Engineering	Grad Faculty	Tracy	Anderson

Additional attendee: Stephanie Hoogendoorn, OTP