

Mississippi State University
2014 – 2015 NEW GRADUATE POLICY OR POLICY MODIFICATIONS
Approved by Graduate Council and the Provost

Academic Dismissal

A graduate student shall be dismissed from the University if: 1) he or she receives a second course grade less than a C, 2) he or she receives a fourth course grade less than a B, or 3) he or she is found to be responsible for violating the Student Honor Code for a second time. A student may also be dismissed from the University if he or she fails to meet the requirements placed upon them when he or she was placed on academic probation. A student may also be dismissed from the University if he or she falls short of any standards established by his or her academic unit. (See Academic Performance and Unsatisfactory Performance in this section.) The dismissal process begins with a Recommendation for Academic Dismissal form (a letter may be attached) from the graduate coordinator, approved by the college dean, to the dean of the Graduate School to recommend that a student be officially dismissed from a graduate program. The reason for the dismissal must be stated. Upon a review of the dismissal request, an official academic dismissal letter from the dean of the Graduate School is sent to the student through the U.S. Postal Service and is also emailed to the student's MSU account. The dismissal letter informs the student that any schedule of classes for the following semester(s) will be dropped, and the Office of the Graduate School (OGS) places an academic dismissal hold on the student's record to prevent further enrollment. The student may refer to the Graduate Catalog for information regarding the appeals process (see Academic Dismissal Appeal Procedure below). A student who has been dismissed from a graduate program and has not been reinstated via the appeal process cannot reapply and be admitted into that program, except by meeting the conditions necessary to request Academic Amnesty (see Academic Amnesty under Academic Requirements).

<https://next.catalog.msstate.edu/graduate/academic-policies/academic-probation-dismissal-appeal/>

Provost approval: July 15, 2015

Effective: Fall 2015

Academic Performance

A student's academic progress is determined by his or her department. Each academic program shall establish and document standards that define satisfactory academic performance specific to that program. Unsatisfactory academic performance indicators may include: inadequate grade point average, too many grades below a B, too many U grades, failure(s) on preliminary/comprehensive examination, unsatisfactory defense(s) of thesis or dissertation, and/or failure on any other required component of one's graduate program.

<https://next.catalog.msstate.edu/graduate/academic-policies/academic-requirements/>

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Academic Probation

A graduate student shall be placed on academic probation beginning in the following semester if: 1) his or her GPA falls below 3.00, or 2) he or she receives a third course grade lower than a B. A student may also be placed on academic probation if he or she falls short of any other standards for satisfactory academic performance established by their academic unit. Specific information relative to retaking of courses or completing remedial work will be established by the appropriate academic advisor, student's graduate committee, and graduate coordinator and documented in written form. This remediation plan must specify a required date of completion. If the student intends to pursue the academic appeal process relating to the reason for being placed on probation, he or she must do so during the first probationary semester.

A student cannot take a preliminary/comprehensive examination or defend/submit a thesis or dissertation during the probationary period. If, at the end of the probationary period, the student has not met the requirements outlined in the remediation plan, she or he shall be dismissed.

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Doctor of Philosophy Program Requirements

Completion of a Ph.D. requires substantial academic work in the field or program of interest beyond the bachelor's level and includes both formal coursework and research (dissertation credit hours). Mississippi State University requires that doctoral students earn at least 54 hours of graduate credit beyond the bachelor's level, which includes a required 20 hours of dissertation credits. Of the 54 hours, at least 24 must be from GPA-graded graduate coursework with a minimum of 12 credit hours at the 8000 level or higher (excluding dissertation research credit), and at least 20 must be dissertation research credits. The remaining 10 hours can be earned with coursework credits, dissertation/research credits, or a combination of both. Individual programs may require additional hours, including dissertation credit hours, as well as permit previous graduate degree coursework in the field to contribute to that total. Program of study courses must be approved by the student's committee. A student may be required to take an ESL, LSK, or undergraduate course, but these courses or audited courses cannot be included on a program.

<https://next.catalog.msstate.edu/graduate/academic-policies/phd-requirements/#programofstudytex>

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Provisional Admission Requirements

A student who has not fully met the GPA or other requirements stipulated by the University may be admitted on a provisional basis. The provisionally-admitted student is eligible for a change to regular status after receiving a 3.00 GPA on the first 9 hours of graduate courses at Mississippi State University (with no grade lower than a C). The first 9 hours of graduate courses must be within the student's program of study. Courses with an S grade, transfer credits, or credits earned while in Unclassified status cannot be used to satisfy this requirement. If a 3.00 is not attained, the provisional student **shall** be dismissed from the graduate program. Academic departments may set higher standards for students to fulfill provisional requirements; a student admitted with provisional status should contact the graduate coordinator for the program's specific requirements. **While in the provisional status, a student is not eligible to hold a graduate assistantship.**

<https://next.catalog.msstate.edu/graduate/academic-policies/academic-requirements/#provisionaladmissiontext>

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Transfer and Sharing of Credit Hours

A total of 9 credit hours can be **shared** between two MSU degrees in which a student is enrolled concurrently (see Dual Degrees in this publication). For those cases other than dual degrees, a total of 9 credit hours can be **shared** or **transferred** to a student's program of study. The two potential sources of credit hours are one or both of the following: those earned as a student in a graduate program at another university, whether or not used to satisfy the requirements of a previously earned degree (**transferred**) and those earned in another graduate program at MSU, whether or not used to satisfy the requirements of a previously earned degree (**shared**). Students who transition from an unclassified admission into a degree

program may also apply up to 9 hours of unclassified graduate work. Credit hours can be shared between or transferred to degrees of the same or different level. See Transfer Credit below for more information on the Transfer policy.

<https://next.catalog.msstate.edu/graduate/academic-policies/program-of-study/#transferstext>

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