ACADEMIC EXPECTATIONS

Expectations for Graduate and Professional Study

The major goals of graduate education at Texas A&M University are to instill in each student an understanding of and a capacity for scholarship, independent judgment, academic rigor and intellectual honesty. Faculty and graduate students have a shared obligation to work together to foster these goals through relationships that advance freedom of inquiry, demonstrate individual and professional integrity, and encourage common respect.

Graduate student progress is guided and evaluated by an advisor and a graduate committee. These individuals give direction and support for the appropriate developmental and learning goals of a graduate student. The advisor and the graduate committee also have the obligation of evaluating a graduate student’s academic performance. The graduate student, the advisor and the graduate committee constitute the basic core of graduate education. The quality, scope and extent of interaction in this group determines the significance of the graduate experience.

High quality graduate education requires professional and ethical conduct of the participants. Faculty and graduate students have mutual responsibilities in ensuring academic standards and quality graduate programs. Excellence in graduate education is achieved when faculty and students are inspired, have the academic and professional backgrounds essential to function at the highest level, and are genuine in their mutual desire to see one another succeed. Any action that negatively affects this interaction—from either faculty member or student—destroys the whole relationship. Mutual respect is critical to the successful process.

The requirements set forth in this catalog are defined as minimum University requirements. Departments, Colleges, and Interdisciplinary Degree Programs may opt to establish higher standards and/or additional requirements.

Student Responsibility

Each student has a responsibility to:

1. Know specific degree requirements as established by the University or the student’s department, college, or interdisciplinary degree program.
2. Enroll in the appropriate coursework to complete the degree plan.
3. Maintain the appropriate standards to continue in graduate studies.
4. Know steps and deadlines related to graduation.
5. Be acquainted with the Texas A&M University Student Rules (refer to the website http://student-rules.tamu.edu).

Information about general degree requirements is available in this catalog. Specific degree requirements and procedural guidelines are available from the departmental graduate advisor(s).

Scholastic Requirements

Unless otherwise stated, students in graduate degree programs and post-baccalaureate non-degree students (G6 classification) must maintain a 3.000 cumulative GPR (computed as specified in Student Rules Section 10.4.3). Degree-seeking students also must maintain a GPR of at least 3.000 on all courses listed on the degree plan. Departments and colleges may establish higher GPR requirements for their students in graduate degree programs and for post-baccalaureate non-degree students (G6 classification).

A graduate student will not receive graduate degree credit for undergraduate courses taken on a satisfactory/unsatisfactory (S/U) basis. A graduate student may not receive grades other than satisfactory (S) or unsatisfactory (U) in graduate courses bearing the numbers 681, 684, 690, 691, 692, 693, 695, 697 and 791 (except for ALEC 695, BUAD 693, AGEC 695, GEOG 695 and IBUS 692). These officially designated S/U courses may be listed on the degree plan, along with other courses approved and noted as S/U in the graduate catalog. Graduate courses not on the degree plan may be taken on an S/U basis. Only grades of A, B, C and S are acceptable for graduate credit. For graduate students, grades of D, F or Unsatisfactory (U) for courses on the degree plan must be absoluted by repeating the courses at Texas A&M University and achieving grades of C or above or Satisfactory (S).

A course in which the final grade is C may be repeated for a higher grade. If the second grade is higher, the original grade will remain on the student’s permanent record, and the most recent grade will be used in computing the cumulative and degree plan GPRs.

A student repeating a course in which a grade of B or better has been earned will not receive grade points for the repeated course, unless the catalog states the course may be repeated for credit.

The cumulative GPR (please refer to Student Rule 10.4.3) for a graduate student is computed by using all graded graduate (600- and 700-level) and advanced undergraduate (300- and 400-level) coursework completed at Texas A&M University and eligible to be applied toward a graduate degree. Those involving grades of W-drop (W), Satisfactory (S), Unsatisfactory (U) and Q-drop (Q) shall be excluded.

Any eligible coursework not applied toward a prior graduate degree, and not exceeding time limits, will be included in the student's GPR for the subsequent degree program.

If either of a student’s cumulative GPR or the GPR for courses listed on the degree plan falls below the minimum of 3.000, he or she will be considered to be scholastically deficient. If the minimum GPR is not attained in a reasonable length of time, the student may be dismissed from graduate studies. The procedures for dismissal are explained in the Texas A&M University Student rules (refer to the website http://student-rules.tamu.edu).

For a scholastically deficient post-baccalaureate non-degree student (G6 classification), the student’s home department shall determine eligibility, and the department is responsible for notifying the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies if a registration block is to be placed on the student.

Departments or colleges may adopt specific guidelines pertaining to scholastic deficiency or dismissal.

New Graduate Student Orientation

http://ogaps.tamu.edu/

Coordinated by the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies, the New Graduate Student Orientation provides an overview of graduate education and services at Texas A&M University— including information on financial aid, procedures and processes, campus safety, writing services and additional campus services. New graduate and professional students will get the opportunity to meet campus leaders, administrators, and fellow graduate students. Experienced graduate students will be present
to answer questions and provide insight about thriving in graduate school, balancing school, work and personal life, and making the most of living in the local communities. Designed to get new graduate and professional students off to a good start in their experiences, students will also have the opportunity to mingle and explore resource booths and meet representatives of campus services and organizations who serve the graduate and professional community.

For additional information about New Graduate Student Orientation, please contact the Office of Graduate and Professional Studies at ogaps@tamu.edu.