

MEMORANDUM

TO: Deans, Chairs, GSC Chairs, Graduate Advisors,
FROM: Philip Cohen
Dean, Graduate School
RE: Revised Policy on Admission Status and Eligibility for Assistantships
DATE: February 12, 2004
cc: Dana Dunn, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs

In response to a directive from U.T. System Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, Teresa A. Sullivan, the Graduate School has modified its policy on eligibility for teaching and research assistantships and associateships. Currently, students admitted on probation or with provisional status are not allowed to hold an assistantship or associateship. Vice Chancellor Sullivan felt that this policy in conjunction with the probationary admission criteria of many graduate programs on campus might occasionally result in financial support decisions inconsistent with the legal requirements established in House Bill 1641. Specifically, the law prohibits the use of standardized test performance as the sole or a primary determinant of admission *or* financial support. Many graduate programs on campus have adopted practices where test performance is the deciding factor in whether unconditional or probationary admission is granted. If an applicant meets other admission requirements, low test scores could lead to probationary admission. As a result of being admitted on probation, the applicant could not hold an assistantship under our current policy.

Rather than re-engineer admission policies, the Graduate School's Assistantship and Associateship Policy will be modified to bring our policies into compliance with the law. Effective immediately, new students admitted on probation may be considered for assistantships and associateships. However, students admitted provisionally will continue to be ineligible for assistantships and associateships until their provisional conditions are satisfied and their admission status is changed to unconditional or probationary.

The above change only alters the admission status requirement in the Graduate School's current Assistantship and Associateship policy. Students placed on academic probation for failure to maintain an adequate grade-point average are still not eligible to hold an assistantship or associateship.

Please modify your catalog and web materials to reflect the change in policy as needed.